

US COMMUTER TRAINS COLLIDE

FAIRFIELD, Connecticut (AP) — Two commuter trains collided outside New York City during the evening rush hour Friday, injuring 50 or more people, authorities said. There were no reports of fatalities. The Metro-North Railroad, a commuter line serving



Emergency workers arrive the scene of a train collision, Friday, May 17, 2013 in Fairfield, Conn.

(AP Photo/C. Abraham)

the northern suburbs, referred in a news release to a "major derailment" near Fairfield, in southern Connecticut. It said emergency workers were at the scene of the accident, which came shortly after 6 p.m.

At least 50 people were injured, Police Officer Matt Panilaitis told The Associated Press. He said there were no fatalities.

Photos taken at the scene showed a train car askew on the rails, with its end smashed up and brushing against another train.

The railroad said the accident involved a New York-bound train leaving New Haven. It derailed and hit a westbound train near Fairfield. Some cars on the second train also derailed. "At this stage, we don't know if this is a mechanical failure, an accident or something deliberate," Fairfield police spokesman Lt. James Perez told the Connecticut Post. □

Home Invasion Shocks Long Island



People gather near a home that was invaded early Friday morning, in Uniondale, N.Y., May 17, 2013. A Hofstra University student was fatally shot during the home invasion and the man who broke into the house and engaged in a gun battle with police was also killed, the authorities said.

(Robert Stolarik/The New York Times)

JOSEPH GOLDSTEIN © 2013 New York Times

A 21-year-old college student was shot and killed early Friday on Long Island after an armed man broke into the home she shared with her twin sister, held her hostage and then engaged in a gunbattle with police, authorities said. The man who forced his way into the home was also killed. It was not immediately clear who fired the fatal shots, police said.

The violence played out in the middle of the night on an ordinarily quiet residential street, only blocks from Hofstra University, where the victim went to school. Students who were preparing for their last day of exams awoke to the news that one of their own had been killed, and the normally festive atmosphere

that comes with the end of the academic year turned terribly sad.

The victim, Andrea Rebello, was a junior from Tarrytown, N.Y., and was studying public relations. She shared the home with her twin, Jessica, and another young woman, according to the police. A young man was also staying at the house at the time.

The suspect, who was not identified, knocked on the door of the home around 2:15 a.m., and when one of the residents looked to see who was there, he burst in, according to police.

He was wearing a ski mask and carrying a pistol, police said. He held the twin sisters and the young man hostage but let the other woman leave, apparently to go withdraw money from a nearby bank ma-

chine, police said.

That woman took the opportunity to call 911, and at 2:29 a.m. she told police that a gunman was holding hostages at her home.

Within minutes, more than a dozen officers descended on the California Avenue block in Uniondale, N.Y.

"Shortly after our arrival, a shooting took place where the suspect is killed and one of the female victims are killed," said Deputy Inspector Kenneth Lack of the Nassau County Police Department.

The details of the shooting were still under investigation, the police said, but it appeared that the gunman and the police exchanged gunfire.

"We are doing a forensic analysis," said the Nassau chief of detectives, John R. Capece, who said a

gun was recovered at the home. "We are going to get to the bottom of what happened."

Victoria Dehel, who lives four houses away, said she had just gotten home around 2 a.m. when she heard screaming.

"It sounded like a bunch of drunk college students on a Thursday night and then it just got very loud," Dehel said.

"I was with my boyfriend, and we were just listening," she added. "And then the screaming just got worse and worse and worse. And then we heard thuds, like five bangs."

"Me and my boyfriend went on the porch to see what was going on. And we saw cops flying down the block."

Continued on Page 7

Republicans broaden scope of IRS scandal inquiry

Jeremy W. Peters

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WASHINGTON – Congressional Republicans – not resting with the Internal

of confidential IRS documents. In that context, he said, the screening of Tea Party groups for special scrutiny was not the scan-

dal itself but “just the latest example of a culture of cover-ups – and political intimidation – in this administration.” “It seems like

the truth is hidden from the American people just long enough to make it through an election,” Camp said. Taken aback, the ranking Democrat on the committee, Rep. Sander M. Levin of Michigan, modified his prepared remarks to warn, “If this hearing becomes essentially a bootstrap to continue the campaign of 2012 and to prepare for 2014, we will be making a very, very serious mistake.” Republicans raised a long list of issues. Camp contended, for instance, that a White House official’s divulging of a private company’s tax status constituted “a clear intimidation tactic.” The 2010 incident involved an offhand comment by the White House economist Austan Goolsbee that Koch Industries had not paid corporate income taxes because it pays taxes through the personal income tax code. As it turned out, that was not true, but the assertion was made in a discussion of tax

reform ideas, not politics. The Republicans also criticized the publication of donors to the National Organization for Marriage, a group opposed to same-sex marriage. That donors list surfaced mysteriously in March 2012 from a whistle-blower whose identity is still unknown. The whistle-blower apparently obtained it by simply requesting it from the IRS. Linkage to the health care law came through Sarah Hall Ingram, a longtime IRS official who has headed the agency’s Affordable Care Act implementation program since December 2010. Before that, she led the IRS’ tax-exempt and government-entities division, which contained the political targeting effort. “This is an audit, and it’s helpful,” Rep. Tim Griffin, R-Ark., said of the investigation of IRS targeting by the Treasury inspector general for tax administration, “but it’s the tip of the iceberg.” □



Steve Miller, acting commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, testifies before the House Ways and Means Committee in Washington, May 17, 2013. The committee on Friday convened the first hearing on the Internal Revenue Service’s targeting of conservative groups, with Republicans eager to expand the scandal and Democrats in no mood to defend the nation’s tax collector.
(T.J. Kirkpatrick/The New York Times)

Revenue Service scandal – are moving to broaden the matter to an array of tax malfeasances and “intimidation tactics” they hope will ensnare the White House.

Republican charges range from the clearly questionable to the seemingly specious, and they grow by the day. On Friday, lawmakers sought to tie the IRS matter to the implementation of President Barack Obama’s health care law, which will rely heavily on the agency. Whether they succeed holds significant ramifications for Obama, who will soon know if he is dealing with a late spring thunderstorm that may soon blow over or a consuming squall that will leave lasting damage.

Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., the usually mild-mannered chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, set the tone Friday at Congress’ first hearing on the targeting of conservative groups by the IRS, laying out details, from the alleged threatening of donors to conservative non-profit groups to the leaking

White House sharpens focus after scandals

MARK LANDLER
MICHAEL D. SHEAR

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BALTIMORE – President Barack Obama, struggling to find his footing after one of his most turbulent weeks in office, will try to push past the moment’s political furor with a focus on the few pieces of legislation he believes have a chance in Congress and on executive actions that do not require Republican approval. The president’s aides, wary of what they say are Republican attempts to seize on scandals as a way of thwarting Obama’s agenda, have ordered the White House staff not to be distracted by approaching hearings on Capitol Hill. Denis R. McDonough, the White House chief of staff, has told those in the West Wing that he expects them to spend no more than 10 percent of their time on the controversies.

In a meeting with Democratic strategists on Thursday morning, McDonough

outlined a plan to intensify focus on revamping immigration laws, reaching a budget deal, and implementing the health care law. The White House is



President Barack Obama speaks about jobs, at Ellicott Dredges in Baltimore, Friday, May 17, 2013, during his second “Middle Class Jobs and Opportunity Tour”.

also preparing a new push to keep student loan rates low when the current ones expire this summer, on the theory that the best way to get past the scandals is to emphasize policy proposals and contrast them with what the administration will portray as political gamesmanship by the Republi-

cans. “We’ve got to stay focused,” McDonough told the group of strategists, according to Mike McCurry, a former spokesman for President Bill Clinton who was at the meeting. Aware that few substantive bills can receive the bipartisan support needed to pass Congress in the current political climate, White House officials are also turning their attention to narrower policies Obama can implement on his own.

On Friday, he flew by helicopter to Baltimore, where he announced an accelerated process for federal approval of infrastructure projects. “Others may get distracted by chasing every fleeting issue that passes by,” Obama said to a crowd of 500 at a factory here. “But the middle class will always be my No. 1 focus, period.”

Republicans have already criticized Obama’s executive actions as big-government overreach, and are likely to use the scandals to further their case, especially as the White House turns to politically thorny areas, like greenhouse-gas emissions. Even as Obama spent the day in Baltimore, his adversaries in the House grilled the acting commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service and its inspector general, trying to determine whether other officials in the administration knew that conservative groups had been the targets of special scrutiny. □

Record Powerball jackpot inspires office pools, hysteria

BARBARA RODRIGUEZ
Associated Press

In workplaces across the nation, Americans are inviting their colleagues to chip in \$2 for a Powerball ticket and a shared daydream. The office lottery pool is a way to improve your odds and have a little fun with co-workers. And besides, who wants to be the only

person at work the next day when everyone quits? With \$600 million on the line, this is the time to play. It's the largest-ever Powerball jackpot and the second-largest world jackpot of all time. And it could get even bigger before Saturday's drawing.

The Multi-State Lottery Association recognizes the

popularity of work pools, especially when the stakes are so high. In the last few years, lottery officials have offered tips for organizing pools.

"The appeal is they can stretch the value of their \$2," said Norm Lingle, executive director of the South Dakota Lottery and chairman of the Powerball

Executive Committee.

But it's important to be careful. Workplace pools that yield big jackpots sometimes result in lawsuits, broken friendships and delayed payouts. Follow these steps to make sure you're ready to divide your winnings.

KNOW THE RULES

Lottery officials encour-

age pools organizers to lay down rules, put them in writing and distribute the details to all participants before the winning numbers are drawn.

Linda Golden, of Gettysburg, Pa., may set the bar for how to manage an office lottery pool. An employee for more than three decades at a printing company called Quad Graphics, Golden has organized a pool for years and requires everyone to sign in, showing they contributed. She had 14 co-workers on board when the jackpot pushed past \$200 million in late March.

They only won \$4. But instead of distributing what would have amounted to about 27 cents a person, Golden bought more tickets for the \$1 million Powerball drawing on March 27 without telling the others. She hit the jackpot and never gave a thought to keeping the winnings all for herself. One co-worker was a woman who used a walker because of a foot problem. Another had just been to the emergency room because of a knee problem. "I say it over and over again. That ticket we won was meant for those two ladies and the rest of (the group) is there for the ride," she said.

After taxes, each person ended up with about \$50,000.

Golden's winning ticket has only stirred more excitement in her office for Saturday's giant Powerball jackpot. She estimated she had 26 people in her pool this time.

"This time, it's starting to take up so much of my time. So many people wanted to join," she said. "It's kind of getting out of hand."

In Collinsville, Ill., just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, seven firefighters were pooling their money for a \$14 ticket that offered seven plays.

Mike Harris keeps the pool in order by distributing a photocopy of the ticket to each contributor and scrawling their names on the handout. □



A sign at a store advertises the Powerball Lottery in Oklahoma City, Friday, May 17, 2013. Powerball officials say the jackpot has climbed to an estimated \$600 million, making it the largest prize in the game's history and the world's second largest lottery prize. (AP Photo/Sue Ogricki)

Hagel orders review of sex-abuse prevention

ROBERT BURNS
LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Friday ordered the military to recertify all 25,000 people involved in programs designed to prevent and respond to sexual assault, an acknowledgment that assaults have escalated beyond the Pentagon's control. He said this step, which also applies to the military's approximately 19,000 recruiters and must be completed by July 1, is one among many that will be taken to fix the problem of sexual abuse and sexual harassment within every branch of the military.

At a news conference with

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Hagel said he believes alcohol use is "a very big factor" in many sexual assault and sexual harassment cases, but there are many pieces to the problem.

He and Dempsey spoke one day after all of the military's leadership were summoned to the White House to discuss the sexual assault problem with President Barack Obama, who has expressed impatience with the Pentagon's failure to solve it.

At his Pentagon news conference, Hagel said it has become clear to him since taking office in February that holding people accountable for their actions

is important, but simply firing people is not a solution. He said he gets a lot of advice on that.

He said some ask him, "Well, why don't you just fire some people?" He said his answer is, "Well, yeah, we could do that. And, you know, who are you going to fire?" Hagel signed a one-page memorandum addressed to the uniformed chiefs and civilian heads of each of the military services requiring that the credentials and qualifications of all recruiters, sexual assault response coordinators and sexual assault victim advocates be reviewed to ensure that they meet current standards. They also will be given refresher training on professional ethics and the

impact of violations.

"I am concerned that this department may be nearing a stage where the frequency of this crime — and the perception that there is tolerance of it — could very well undermine our ability to effectively carry out the mission, and to recruit and retain good people," Hagel wrote.

A catalyst for congressional outrage has been the disclosure in recent days of at least two cases in which a military member with responsibility for sexual assault prevention programs has himself been accused of sexual misconduct. Cases of sexual assault allegations against military recruiters also have arisen recently. □

OJ's ex-lawyer contradicts his testimony on guns

KEN RITTER
LINDA DEUTSCH

Associated
LAS VEGAS (AP) — O.J. Simpson's former lawyer

defended himself point-by-point Friday against allegations he botched the former football star's armed-robbery trial, and he testified Simpson actually knew his buddies had guns when they went to a hotel room together to reclaim some sports memorabilia.

Yale Galanter took the stand at an often combative hearing on Simpson's claim that his conviction should be thrown out on the grounds that his attorney did a poor job representing him.

Galanter denied giving Simpson the go-ahead to retrieve the photos and footballs he believed had been stolen from him. He denied keeping Simpson in the dark about plea bargain offers that carried only a few years in prison. He said his client agreed all along with the decision not to put him on the stand. And he disputed Simpson's testimony from earlier this week when the former NFL star said he didn't know anyone in the hotel room had taken along guns.

"When you look at the entire trial, I don't think I could have fought harder, done more," Galanter said of his handling of the case. "I put every ounce of blood,

sweat and soul into it."

At another point, he said: "Simpson brought a lot of baggage into the courtroom. It's not like the 12 jurors didn't know he was accused of murder and acquitted."

Simpson, 65, was found guilty in 2008 of kidnapping and armed robbery over the hotel room episode and was sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison. The conviction came 13 years after the sensational Trial of the Century, where he was acquitted of murdering his ex-wife and a friend of hers.

When the hearing concluded late Friday afternoon, Clark County District Judge Linda Marie Bell told attorney she will issue her decision on the bid for a retrial at a later time. She did not specify when the decision would be released.

Freed from the usual attorney-client confidentiality rules, Galanter testified that Simpson confided to him that he had asked two men to bring guns to the hotel room in 2007, and "he knew he screwed up." On the stand, Galanter brought up the guns only after he paused and was reminded that Simpson had waived attorney-client privilege. "I'm very uncomfortable doing this," he said.

After the lawyer delivered the blow, Simpson didn't move, looking straight ahead at his former counsel and confidant.

Testifying about events leading up to the incident, Galanter said he was surprised when Simpson told him over dinner in Las Vegas that he and several other men were planning a "sting" the next morning to take back the mementos. Galanter said he advised Simpson not to take matters into his own hands: "I said, 'O.J., you've got to call the police.'"

According to Simpson, Galanter advised him that he was within his rights to retrieve the items; told him not to testify at the trial; and failed to tell him prosecutors had offered plea bargains. □



O.J. Simpson and his defense attorney Ozzie Fumo confer during an evidentiary hearing for Simpson in Clark County District Court on May 17, 2013 in Las Vegas. Simpson, who is currently serving a nine-to-33-year sentence in state prison as a result of his October 2008 conviction for armed robbery and kidnapping charges, is using a writ of habeas corpus to seek a new trial, claiming he had such bad representation that his conviction should be reversed.

(AP Photo/Ethan Miller)

Arrests in New Orleans parade shootings cheered

KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Days after bursts of gunfire brought a chaotic and bloody end to a Mother's Day neighborhood parade in New Orleans, news of now seven arrests gave an organizer of the traditional event reason to celebrate again.

"I'm just ecstatic," Edward

Buckner, president of the Original Big 7 Social Aid and Pleasure Club, said Thursday.

Two brothers were booked with 20 counts each of attempted second-degree murder in Sunday's shooting spree in which 19 people were struck by bullets and one was injured while fleeing. Authorities said three people remain in criti-

cal condition.

Akein Scott, 19, was captured Wednesday night. A \$10 million bond was set for him in the shooting case Thursday and he was ordered held without bond, pending another hearing on an unrelated gun and weapon charge. His brother, Shawn Scott, 24, was arrested Thursday morning. The district attorney's of-

fice had said Shawn Scott would make an initial court appearance Friday, but court records show bond was set at \$10 million for him in a hearing Thursday evening. An additional \$91,000 in bond was added for other drug and weapon charges.

Five others were accused of helping suspects avoid capture. They are charged with being accessories after the fact to attempted second-degree murder and obstruction of justice, police said. The latest arrested Friday on that charge was 19-year-old Monique Pepe. Police say she allowed Shawn Scott to hide at her house.

Motives for the shootings have not been given but police said the shootings were believed to be gang related and that the Scott brothers are thought to be members of a gang called the Frenchmen and Derbigny Boys.

The Dalai Lama, visiting New Orleans for the first time Friday, expressed condolences to victims. □



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Pa. coffee run leads to hatchet hitchhiker arrest

KATIE ZEZIMA
Associated Press

ELIZABETH, N.J. (AP) — Two cups of coffee ended life on the run for an Internet sensation known as Kai the hatchet-wielding hitchhiker.

An employee at a Starbucks in Philadelphia is credited with recognizing 24-year-old Caleb "Kai" McGillvary, whose fledgling celebrity took a turn toward notoriety when authorities announced this week that he was wanted in the beating death of a New Jersey lawyer three times his age.

The unlikely pair met amid the neon lights of New York City's Times Square over the weekend and headed back to the squat brick home of 73-year-old Joseph Galfy Jr. on a quiet cul-de-sac in suburban Clark, N.J., authorities say. On Monday, Galfy was found beaten to death in his bedroom, wearing only his socks and underwear. McGillvary was arrested Thursday shortly after leaving the Starbucks and charged with killing Galfy. McGillvary gained a measure of fame in February after intervening in an attack on a California utility worker. In an interview viewed millions of times online, he described using a hatchet he was carrying to repeatedly hit a man who had struck a worker with his car, fending off a further

attack, and thus became known as "Kai the hatchet-wielding hitchhiker."

Galfy's funeral was held Friday in a small stone chapel in Warren, N.J. He was buried in East Hanover.

Galfy was an "excellent land use attorney," said friend Robert Ellenport. He said Galfy loved to travel and was a fan of the New York Giants and the Seton Hall University basketball team. Galfy would fly to warmer climes to watch Seton Hall play its first games of the season and was urging Ellenport and his partner to travel to Bali, one of Galfy's favorite vacation spots.

The victim's sister-in-law, Diane Galfy, said at her home that "he was a very well-respected man. That's what we want people to know," she said. She said her husband didn't want to talk and her children were devastated.

Galfy was a respected lawyer who in recent years handled land use and domestic violence cases, according to Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow, whose office is prosecuting McGillvary. The two knew each other through legal circles.

"He was just a nice man, a gentle man, well-regarded in the community," Romankow said.

In addition to his law practice, Galfy was the attorney for the planning board

in Green Brook, N.J., and played drums in a wedding band.

Authorities said McGillvary was arrested Thursday

evening after he walked into a Starbucks near a bus station in downtown Philadelphia and ordered two coffees. The woman who

served McGillvary recognized him and alerted her manager, who called the police.

McGillvary took off before police arrived, Philadelphia Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said, and without his coffee. But an officer went to a nearby bus terminal and found McGillvary, who was arrested there.

"He wasn't lying low," Romankow said. "He was out there."

McGillvary was arraigned Friday and being held without bail on charges in Galfy's killing, though a court official said he has a U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement detainer for three arrests in Canada in recent years. □



In this undated photo downloaded from the Union County Prosecutor's website, Caleb "Kai" Lawrence McGillvary is shown.
(AP Photo/Union County Prosecutor's Office)




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Faulted for sexual harassment, legislator will quit Albany

THOMAS KAPLAN
JESSE MCKINLEY
 © 2013 New York Times
NEW YORK - Assemblyman Vito J. Lopez, the once-powerful Brooklyn Democratic leader who has been accused of sexual harassment by multiple women, infuriated elected officials in Albany and New York on Friday by suggesting that he would seek to remain in office through the remainder of this year's legislative session and would then pursue a new political life as a member of the New York City Council.

The Assembly speaker, Sheldon Silver, whose own handling of the initial allegations against Lopez has been widely criticized, vowed to press ahead with an effort to expel Lopez from the Legislature

immediately. And the City Council speaker, Christine C. Quinn, called for an all-out effort to prevent Lopez from winning election to that body this fall.



Assemblyman Vito Lopez, who has been accused of sexual harassment by multiple women, in the New York State Assembly chamber, in Albany, N.Y.

(Nathaniel Brooks/The New York Times)

"Vito Lopez should not spend another day in office, let alone a whole month," Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said in a statement. "He should resign effective immediately and if he does not, he must be expelled." The denunciations from the state's leading Democratic officials demonstrated the remarkably steep fall of Lopez. Until he was publicly accused of harassment, he had been a political boss with considerable influence in Brooklyn, where he controlled a sprawling nonprofit agency, the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council, that served as a de facto political machine for him and his allies, and in Albany, where he had clout as chairman of the Housing Committee. The Assembly last year cen-

sured Lopez for sexually harassing two women who worked for him, and it had previously secretly settled two other harassment allegations against him. But the anger over his conduct intensified this week, after the state's Joint Commission on Public Ethics issued a report detailing the behavior alleged by multiple women, and on Thursday, Cuomo and Silver, both Democrats, said they wanted the Assembly to expel Lopez.

On Friday, facing rising calls for his ouster from the Legislature, Lopez, 71, tried to quiet the uproar by issuing a seven-sentence statement in which he said he would resign on the last scheduled day of this year's legislative session, June 20. □

Abortion law in Arkansas is blocked by U.S. judge

ERIK ECKHOLM
 © 2013 New York Times
 A federal judge on Friday temporarily blocked en-

forcement of one of the country's most stringent abortion laws, an Arkansas ban on the procedure at the 12th week of pregnancy, saying the law was likely to be declared unconstitutional.

Adopted in March, the law was the sharpest challenge yet to the standard set by the Supreme Court. Roe v. Wade in 1973 and later decisions determined that a woman has a right to an abortion up to the point that a fetus is viable outside the womb, usually around 24 weeks. Abortion rights groups quickly brought a legal challenge, resulting in Friday's preliminary injunction, which was issued by Judge Susan Webber Wright of U.S. District Court in Little Rock.

The injunction will prevent the law from taking effect on its scheduled date of Aug. 16 and will remain in place until the judge hears final arguments and rules on its constitutionality. Also in March, North Dakota passed an even more restrictive law, banning

abortions at the sixth week of pregnancy, which is before many women even know they are pregnant.

The Center for Reproductive Rights, a New York-based group that challenged the Arkansas law, along with the American Civil Liberties Union, said it planned to file a plea in North Dakota to block that law before it takes effect Aug. 1.

In both states, the sharp time limits were linked by legislators to the detection of fetal heartbeats. They were the first victories for an impatient faction of the anti-abortion movement that wants to strike major blows against abortion rather than chipping away at Roe v. Wade with less sweeping rules that are more likely to pass constitutional muster. □



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Student killed during botched robbery near Hofstra

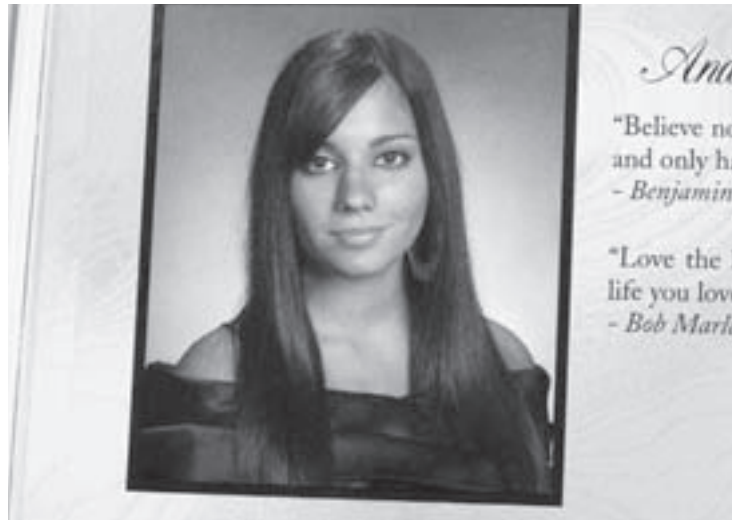
Continued from front

She said she heard what sounded like a woman pleading for her life.

"It didn't sound good at all," Dehel said. "I turned to my boyfriend and I said, 'I think someone just got murdered.' It was awful."

Around the same time, she said, she watched as more than a dozen heavily armed police officers approached the house, some holding bulletproof shields

in front of them. The police ordered her to go back inside. Audio recordings of police communications paint a picture of a chaotic and frightening scene. In one conversation, officers can be heard saying that the suspect was pointing a gun at the head of one of the hostages. The overnight shooting stunned students at Hofstra, who were just completing their final exams and preparing for the summer break.



In this photo copied from the 2010 Sleepy Hollow High School yearbook, high school student Andrea Rubello is shown. Police said Rubello, a junior at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., was shot and killed Friday, May 17, 2013, during a break-in near the college campus.

(AP Photo/Sleepy Hollow High School)

Rabinowitz, issued a statement later in the day confirming that a student had been killed.

"We do not yet know all of the relevant details," he said. "What we do know is that a young member of the Hofstra family has been taken from us in a senseless act of violence. Our hearts and minds and our thoughts and prayers are with her family, her friends and her classmates."

University officials said commencement ceremonies would go on as scheduled this weekend. Students were planning to gather on campus, where the flags were flown at half-staff, on Friday evening to remember Andrea Rubello. □

NM mom: I followed instincts in chasing down an abductor

RUSSELL CONTRERAS

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Melissa Torrez didn't even think when teenagers in her apartment complex said a man had just grabbed her 4-year-old girl and drove away.

She jumped in her car and began chasing the brown Buick through traffic, zig-zagging on Interstate 40 at high speeds and staying with the car even as it bluffed trying to exit in an attempt to lose her.

Many called Torrez a hero after her story came out Wednesday. But Torrez said Friday that she was just a mother following her instincts.

"My mind went black. I grabbed my keys," said the 27-year-old mother of three. "I just got in my car and I ... went looking for her."

Torrez said she remained only focused on getting her daughter back and quickly drove around the complex as teenagers chased the suspected abductor, later identified by police as 31-year-old David Hernandez. The teenagers pointed out his whereabouts, she

said.

Torrez said she eventually found a man in a brown Buick who led her on a high-speed chase throughout Albuquerque.

"I felt like I was flying ... as if I didn't have my soul or something," she said.

The frantic mom was able to corner the man in the Buick at an apartment complex with no exit. She said as she drove toward his vehicle, she lost control of her car and struck his car.

"I wasn't trying to hit it because I thought my daughter was inside," Torrez said. Torrez said the man got out of the car and raised his hands but took off running when police arrived. She then ran toward the car to search for her daughter but the vehicle was empty. An empty infant car seat was the only thing left.

According to a police report, Hernandez pushed the 4-year-old out of the car at the Saint Anthony's Plaza Apartment complex shortly after the abduction "presumably once he noticed Torrez had been notified and was following him." □

The university sent a text message to students Friday alerting them to the shoot-

ing, but providing few details.

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Bombs targeting Sunnis kill at least 76 in Iraq

SAMEER N. YACCOUB
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Bombs ripped through Sunni areas in Baghdad and surrounding areas Friday, killing at least 76 people in the deadliest day in Iraq in more than eight months. The major spike in sectarian bloodshed heightened fears the country could again be veering toward civil war.

The attacks followed two days of bombings targeting Shiites, including bus stops and outdoor markets, with a total of 130 people killed since Wednesday.

Scenes of bodies sprawled across a street outside a mosque and mourners killed during a funeral procession were reminiscent of some of the worst days of retaliatory warfare between the Islamic sects that peaked in 2006-2007 as U.S. forces battled extremists on both sides.

Tensions have been intensifying since Sunnis began protesting what they say is mistreatment at the hands of the Shiite-led government, including random detentions and neglect.

The protests, which began in December, have largely been peaceful, but the number of attacks rose sharply after a deadly security crackdown on a Sunni protest camp in northern Iraq on April 23.

Majority Shiites control the levers of power in post-Sad-

dam Hussein Iraq. Wishing to rebuild the nation rather than revert to open warfare, they have largely restrained their militias in the past five years or so as Sunni extremist groups such as al-Qaida have frequently targeted them with large-scale attacks.

Nobody claimed responsibility for Friday's attacks, but the fact they occurred in mainly Sunni areas raised suspicion that Shiite militants were involved. The bombs also were largely planted in the areas, as opposed to the car bombings and suicide attacks that

al-Qaida in Iraq and other Sunni insurgents are known to use. Talal al-Zobaie, a Sunni lawmaker, called on politicians across the religious and ethnic spectrum to put aside their differences and focus on protecting the nation.

"The terrorist attacks on Sunni areas today and on Shiite areas in the past two days are an indication that some groups and regional countries are working hard to reignite the sectarian war in Iraq," he said. "The government should admit that it has failed to secure the country and the people, and all security commanders should be replaced by efficient people who can really confront terrorism. Sectarianism that has bred armies of widows and orphans in the past is now trying to make a comeback in this country, and everybody should be aware of this."

The areas hit Friday were all former Sunni insurgent strongholds that saw some of the fiercest fighting of the U.S.-led war as sectarian rivalries nearly tore the country apart. □



Followers of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr pray during Friday prayers in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, May 17, 2013.

(AP Photo/Karim Kadim)

Tunisia bans ultraconservative Islamist groups' conference

BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA
Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Tunisia's Interior Ministry on Friday banned a conference by the North African country's most prominent ultraconservative Islamic group, setting up the possibility of a confrontation over the weekend.

The ministry statement, which appeared on their Facebook site, said Ansar al-Shariah's annual conference to be held in Tunisia's holy city of Kairouan was

not in compliance with the laws governing assembly and was a threat to public order.

Part of the ultraconservative salafi Muslim trend that gained popularity following the overthrow of Tunisia's secular dictatorship in 2011, Ansar al-Shariah calls for the strict application of Islamic law.

The group's leader, Seifallah Ben Hassine, is wanted in connection with an attack by a mob on the U.S. Embassy in Tunisia last Sep-

tember. Salafi groups have also been accused of attacking cinemas, art galleries and police stations.

The ministry statement said that the right to assembly was protected in the country, but only in the framework of the existing laws.

"Those who attack the state and its institutions, attempt to foment anarchy, threaten stability, or incite violence and hate must take full responsibility," the ministry statement said.

The decision, taken even as followers of Ansar al-Shariah have been arriving in Kairouan, sets up a confrontation between the government, which is led by the moderate Islamist Ennahda Party and Ansar al-Shariah.

The group's spokesman, Seifeddine Rais, warned the state in a news conference Thursday against police intervention against the conference.

"If the government tries to stop the Kairouan congress,

it will bear full responsibility for any blood spilled," he said in a mosque where the conference was held.

"The greater the pressure put on us, the greater the risk of an explosion."

He added that the group had not applied for a permit to hold their conference, which last year featured martial arts contests and displays of horsemanship, because "when we preach the words of God we do not need authorization." □

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**\$1M in jewelry
 stolen near
 Cannes film fest**

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Thieves ripped a safe from the wall of a hotel room near the Cannes Film Festival and made off with around \$1 million worth of jewelry, in a brazen late-night burglary just hours after the screening of a film about break-ins at the homes of Hollywood celebrities, French officials said Friday. The apparently well-planned robbery at the Novotel hotel took place in the room of an employee of Chopard, the Swiss-based watch and jewelry maker and festival sponsor that was hosting a splashy gala event in a far ritzier hotel around the same time, officials said. Chopard has loaned jewelry to A-list stars who walk on the festival's famed red carpet under rapid-fire flashes of photographers' cameras. Already this year model Carla Delevingne and actress Julianne Moore have walked the carpet in Chopard gems. "The jewels stolen are not part of the collection of jewels that are worn by actresses during the Cannes film festival," Chopard spokeswoman Raffaella Rossiello told reporters in a brief statement Friday. Cmdr. Bernard Mascarelli, a judicial police spokesman in the nearby city of Nice, said he didn't know the exact type of jewelry taken, or its exact value. "Numbers have been put forward that we're still trying to verify, but the figure of \$1 million ... we're in that range," he said. Jean-Michel Caillaud, a state prosecutor in nearby Grasse who is leading the investigation, said early estimates were that the loot could have been worth as much as \$1.4 million. □

Woman describes Berlusconi's 'bunga bunga' parties

COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Silvio Berlusconi's private disco featured not only aspiring showgirls performing striptease acts as sexy nuns and nurses, but one woman dressed up as President Barack Obama and a prominent Milan prosecutor whom the billionaire media mogul has accused of persecuting him, according to the first public sworn testimony by the Moroccan woman at the center of the scandal. Karima el-Mahroug's testimony Friday at the trial of three former Berlusconi aides accused with procuring her and other women for prostitution confirms a sexually charged atmosphere at the "bunga bunga" parties of the then-sitting premier. The trial is separate from the one in which Berlusconi is charged with paying for sex with a minor — el-Mahroug when she was 17 — and trying to cover it up. El-Mahroug, now 20, said she attended about a half-dozen parties, using her nickname Ruby, and that after each, Berlusconi handed her an envelope with up to 3,000 euros (\$3,900) in denominations of 500. She said she later received 30,000 euros cash from the then-premier paid through an intermediary — money that she told Berlusconi she wanted to use to open a beautician salon despite having no formal training. But she denied that Berlusconi had ever given her 5 million euros (\$6.43 million). She said she told acquaintances and even her father that she was going to receive such a large sum "as a boast," but that it was a lie to make her seem

more important.

The three Berlusconi aides — Emilio Fede, an executive in Berlusconi's media empire; Nicole Minetti, a former dental hygienist, showgirl and local politician, and talent agent Dario "Lele" Mora — are

cy but didn't have proper identity documents, and wound up landing a job as a hostess in nightclubs, earning around 100 euros (\$130) a night. She frequently changed accommodation during that time, staying for pe-

was a famous Arab singer and that she was related to then-Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. She was 17 at the time but had passed herself off as being 23 or 24. El-Mahroug confirmed Friday what other witnesses have testified previously:



Karima el-Mahroug's is escorted outside the Milan's Law court by two Carabinieri police officers after giving her testimony at the trial of three former Berlusconi aides accused with procuring her and other woman for prostitution, in Milan, Italy, Friday, May 17, 2013.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

accused of recruiting women for prostitution at the parties and abetting prostitution, including of a minor. They deny the charges. El-Mahroug has made carefully orchestrated statements to the media since the scandal broke, but has never publicly given sworn testimony. Both she and Berlusconi deny having had sex. Dressed soberly with her hair pulled back, El-Mahroug said she first made contact with Berlusconi's inner circle when she participated in a beauty contest organized by Fede in Sicily when she was 16. After that she made her way to Milan, hoping to find work. She said she tried to get work through another defendant's talent agen-

riods of days with people whose names she no longer recalls. Eventually, she ran into Fede at a restaurant, where she reminded him of his promise in Sicily to help her. Shortly thereafter, she was invited to a dinner party, at Berlusconi's villa outside of Milan. She testified that she met the premier that night — on Valentine's Day in 2010 — and that he gave her an envelope of 2,000 to 3,000 euros (\$2,600 to \$3,900) as she was leaving, saying it was "a little help" and asking for her telephone number, which she gave him. At that party, she said, she introduced herself as Ruby and told other guests a fake tale that she was Egyptian, that her mother

that at some of the soirees, young female party guests had dressed up like nuns and danced for Berlusconi and then stripped down to their underwear. The parties took place in a disco in Berlusconi's villa equipped with a lap dance pole. El-Mahroug told the court that there was sometimes a singer who is close to Berlusconi at the parties, but most of the guests were young women. While she went home in a taxi alone the first night, other times, she testified, she slept in a guest room by herself. Since she only had the dress she was wearing, she was given a track suit in the morning to have breakfast, and sometimes stayed for lunch, leaving in the late afternoon. □

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Venezuela's military enters high-crime slums near Caracas

KARL RITTER

Associated Press

PETARE, Venezuela (AP)

— Stern-looking soldiers clutching assault rifles wave down the beat-up Chevy Caprice entering this sprawling slum on the outskirts of Caracas.

Flashlights in his face, the driver steps out and places his hands on the roof while the soldiers frisk him for drugs and weapons.

He's clean, and a hand gesture from the commanding officer sends him off into the maze of ramshackle homes that is Petare, one of the most dangerous parts of Venezuela's notoriously crime-

infested capital.

Since Monday, this scene is playing out day and night at dozens of military checkpoints set up here in the socialist government's latest attempt to control the oil-rich country's pandemic of violence.

Critics dismiss the "Secure Homeland" initiative as a political charade that risks degenerating into human rights abuses while having no lasting impact on crime. But to many residents, weary of being terrorized by armed gangs, seeing troops on the streets is a welcome projection of government power.

"You have to act force-

fully so that people feel the force of the state," said 47-year-old Irving Garcia, an unemployed former Army reservist, who like many Caracas residents has firsthand experience of violent crime. Garcia said he was shot in the chest

siders, including police.

Chavez banned gun sales, expanded a new national police force and stepped up policing and other programs in high-crime areas. Now, his hand-picked successor, Nicolas Maduro, is adding military muscle

emblematic cases in which the use of the armed forces resulted in disproportional force." She said they include the 1989 street riots known as the "Caracazo," when 300 people were killed, and a 1992 prison riot in Caracas in which 63



A National Guard soldier frisks a man outside his car at a checkpoint that is part of the "Secure Homeland" initiative in Petare, one of the most dangerous neighborhoods of Caracas, Venezuela. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

when he unknowingly walked into a restaurant robbery. The bullet shattered his sternum, he said, inviting a reporter to feel a piece of protruding bone through his shirt.

With some 15,000 killings a year, Venezuela's homicide rate is the fifth highest in the world, according to U.N. statistics. The murder rate doubled during the 14-year-rule of the late President Hugo Chavez as cheap access to guns and an ineffective justice system fed a culture of violence in slums like Petare, parts of which have become no-go zones for out-

by deploying 3,000 troops on the streets. The initiative started in the Caracas area on Monday and will be expanded to the states of Zulia, Lara and Carabobo next week. Human rights activists worry that sending soldiers trained for warfare on policing missions will only make things worse for the residents they are meant to protect.

"It's going to aggravate the situation, unfortunately, because the army isn't prepared to deal with issues of public safety," said Liliana Ortega, director of the COFAVIC human rights group. "We have various

prisoners died. The soldiers, who work together with the National Guard and national police force, have the power to make arrests but are supposed to hand over the detainees to civilian authorities. Any human rights abuses would be tried by civilian courts, according to the constitution. In deeply divided Venezuela, there are also concerns over the initiative's political undertones. Maduro narrowly won an April 14 presidential election that the opposition claims he stole through fraud, voter intimidation and abuse of government powers. □

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OAS drug study eyes marijuana legalization benefits

FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

LIMA, Peru (AP) — An Organization of American States study released Friday is calling for a serious discussion on legalizing marijuana.

Drug policy reform advocates called the report historic, even though it made no specific proposals and said there was "no significant support" among the OAS' 35 member states for legalizing cocaine, the drug that most directly affects South America.

"This is the first time any multilateral organization anywhere has done something like this," said Ethan Nadelmann, executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance.

The \$2.2 million study was commissioned in response to calls by some Latin American leaders at last year's Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia, for a rethinking of the war on drugs.

Reform advocates call the more than \$20 billion that Washington has spent on counterdrug efforts in Latin America over the past decade a damaging waste of taxpayer money.

"Sooner or later decisions in this area will need to

be taken," says the study, which was presented by outgoing OAS Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza in Bogota.

The study examines four different scenarios for confronting the illicit drug trade, which has fueled violent crime and corruption, especially in drug production and transit countries, including destabilizing governments.

The most controversial scenario would involve countries unilaterally abandoning the fight against drug production and trafficking in their territory in order to reduce violence.

President Otto Perez Molina of Guatemala, a hard-hit cocaine transit country along with neighboring Honduras, made headlines before the Cartagena summit when he said he was tempted to put his country on such a path.

The report's authors conclude, however, "that there is no absolute link between the drug problem and the insecurity experienced by many citizens in the Americas."

Accompanying Insulza on Friday was Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, whose country remains the No. 1 source of

cocaine consumed by U.S. citizens.

Santos said the report pre-

deaths, the violence that drug trafficking wreaks, the consumption of drugs and

marily a public health issue and suggests drug abusers should not be criminally prosecuted but rather treated as ill.

"Decriminalization of drug use needs to be considered as a core element in any public health strategy," it says.

That echoes the approach of the U.S. government. But it diverges from Washington's longstanding opposition to legalizing marijuana despite the fact that voters in two states — Colorado and Washington — have done that.

Nadelmann said the U.S. government has in the past suppressed any multilateral attempt to promote discussion of alternatives to the current drug war. □



Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos, left, holds a copy of a regional study the illicit drug trade presented by OAS chief Jose Miguel Insulza, right, during a joint press conference at the Presidential Palace in Bogota, Colombia, Friday, May 17, 2013. (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

sented "simple, realistic options" for future action in order to "reduce the

the profits of criminals." The 400-page study emphasizes drug abuse as pri-



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Caribbean talks conservation on Branson's island

DAVID McFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)

— Political and business leaders are gathering on a billionaire's private island Friday to back a program aimed at expanding protection for the Caribbean's imperiled coasts and waters.

The "Caribbean Challenge" calls for special protected zones along at least 20 percent of the region's coasts by 2020 in hopes of protecting its biodiversity and its crucial tourism market. The Caribbean's scattered islands that has 10 percent of the world's coral reefs and some 1,400 species of fish and marine mammals.

Richard Branson, the adventuring CEO and founder of the Virgin Group of companies is co-hosting the meeting at Necker Island, his home in the British Virgin Islands, where he has developed an ultra-exclusive eco-resort that showcases renewable energy technology and reintroduced flamingoes.

"It's just so important to get every single Caribbean country 100 percent behind protecting the wonderful sea life and the wonderful reefs and mangroves, and therefore the species that occupy our oceans," Branson said in a phone interview from the

island.

British Virgin Islands Premier Orlando Smith and Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell are also co-hosting the gathering of delegations from nine Caribbean countries, chiefs of resort companies and cruise lines, representatives

says that the Caribbean Challenge, begun in 2008, is one of the world's most ambitious conservation initiatives.

"The Caribbean is truly paradise under threat, and today's focus is a critical step toward a brighter future," Glenn Prickett, chief exter-

conservationists say it will be in a far stronger position to protect its small economies and cope with future threats from climate change and ocean acidification due to greenhouse gases.

The challenges are many in the ecologically stressed

ed to an average of just 8 percent from 50 percent in the 1970s, the International Union for Conservation of Nature says. Three-fourths of the reefs are considered threatened, also degraded by overfishing, runoff pollution and coastal development.

"In the past, the Caribbean has not been great at protecting the eagle rays and the sharks and the reef fish and so on," Branson said.

Some of the Caribbean Challenge's participating countries — Bahamas, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and the British Virgin Islands — have already taken steps to reach their conservation targets.

The Dominican Republic has actually exceeded its 20 percent goal by creating more than 30 new protected areas in recent years. The Bahamas established the largest marine protected area in the region by expanding a national park in Andros from 185,000 acres to 1.28 million acres. Jamaica has set up several "no-take" fishing sanctuaries.

But there are questions about how deep the political will really is in a region with heavily indebted governments. Political leaders have long spoken about the need for protecting coasts, developing alternative energy sources and diversifying tourism-dependent economies but little has been accomplished. One country, Antigua & Barbuda, recently dropped out of the initiative for reasons that are not clear. Branson said strong conservation efforts would pay off for years to come for a region where 70 percent of the people live in coastal settlements and a \$20 billion tourism industry provides more than 2 million jobs. "Many, many people who come to the Caribbean come because they want to enjoy the reef, they want to see the sea life on the reef," Branson said. "And therefore they want to see it better protected." □



Richard Branson, founder and chairman of the Virgin Group, gestures upon arrival for a press conference on Monday, May 13, 2013. Political and business leaders gathered on Branson's private island Friday to back a program aimed at expanding protection for the Caribbean's imperiled coasts and waters. (AP Photo/Wong Maye-E)

of the World Bank, United Nations and other international bodies, private foundations and environmental groups.

One of the key promoters is the Virginia-based Nature Conservancy, which

nal affairs officer with the Nature Conservancy, said in an email.

If the Caribbean, the world's most tourism dependent region, takes strong steps now to protect its natural resources,

Caribbean, which covers some 10,000 square kilometers (3,860 square miles). Once brilliant coral reefs have lost their luster due to warming waters and disease. Live coral cover of existing reefs has plummet-

Cuba celebrates International Day Against Homophobia

HAVANA (AP) — A week of drag shows, colorful marches and social and cultural events in Havana culminated Friday with celebrations of the International Day Against Homophobia.

Hundreds of activists have taken part in the activities organized by a sex education center headed by first daughter Mariela Castro.

"Join (us) to educate families about their great social responsibility to ensure that there is no discrimination of any kind," Castro said.

The schedule included a gala bash at the capital's cavernous Karl Marx theater, with drag performers on stage with the popular musical group Los Van

Van. Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel attended.

Cuban Revolution, sometimes sent to grueling rural

suspect by the Communist government.

But there has been a gradual shift away from macho attitudes, and Fidel Castro himself has publicly regretted the mistreatment of people seen as different.

Six years ago, Cuba's health care system began providing gender reassignment surgery free of charge, and a proposal to legalize same-sex civil unions is being studied.

But Mariela Castro, Fidel's niece and the daughter of current president Raul Castro, says more must be done to raise awareness about lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender people. □



Dayan Sanchez, 25, right, a gay transvestite artist known as "Venus," holds a portrait of himself as he poses with his mother Anadelia Morales, 47, at his home in Havana, Cuba, Thursday, May 16, 2013. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Gays were persecuted for decades after the 1959

work camps along with others considered socially



At the Alhambra Ballroom: The Arrindell Sisters host an elegant Holy Communion Party

EAGLE BEACH – The new ballroom at the Alhambra Casino & Shops played host to a unique Holy Communion party, given in honor of Ariany de Weever and Tizienne Heyliger, two adorable cousins, whose mothers decided to organize a joint venture, sharing the special day in their daughters' lives with their closest family members and friends in the lovely setting.

The culinary brigade of the Alhambra Ballroom catered the affair, under the direction of Executive Chef Gerard Coste, preparing a complete buffet



of local favorites such as Sweet Potato & Plantain Salad, Tossed Garden Greens, Cunucu Chicken Salad, Black Bean, Corn & Cilantro Salad, Creamy Pumpkin Soup, Red Snapper Creole, Stewed Beef, Ginger Jasmine Rice, Aruban Polenta, Fried Sweet Plantain, and for dessert a rich selection of delicacies such as Quesillo, Cashew Nut Cake, Mango Mousse Shooters, Tres Leche, and

Raspberry Chocolate Cake.

The room was beautifully set up with round dinner tables, gleaming silver and stemware and decorated with artistic center

pieces. Each of the girls enjoyed her own themed Holy Communion cake and souvenir display. Family and friends savored the food and the festivities, with DJ entertainment. □



Westin Aruba Art Gallery presents: Opening of art exhibition "Color of Aruba" a success!

PALM BEACH - Duo opened last Saturday, May 11, 2013 at Westin Aruba Art Gallery at Westin Aruba Resort & Casino.



Two emerging local photographers, Steens and Corbach have presented 42 photographed pieces according to the theme "Color of Aruba" sponsored by Aruba Experience Magazine.

Both Ron and Lex were born in Holland, and Ron has been living in Aruba for over a decade now. Lex lived in Finland for a while but moved from Holland to Aruba.

Ron Steens photographed a lot during his traveling and is now focused mostly on all things in Aruba. He tries to see things from a different angle and likes to photograph situations, people and places as they are and without Photoshop.

Lex Corbach has been photographing and filming for years with a very keen eye for the small details. He likes colorful photographs but is also specialized in black and white photography with a little edge, without no tricks and no Photoshop.

If you missed the opening



night, don't worry! The exhibition continues to June 13, 2013.

Come and enjoy the transformed Gallery with "Color of Aruba"

Westin Aruba Art Gallery [WAAG] opens 7 days a week, and is located at the lobby level of Westin Aruba Resort & Casino.

Curators Michiko Takatsu & Eduardo Valbuena will be present on Tuesday

afternoon (3 pm – 6 pm), and Saturday (11 am – 2pm) to answer all your questions or/and assist you for purchasing their artworks.

You can also reach them during the office hours at: 588-2267, 740-2678, or 742-1987.

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- By Michiko Takatsu [WAAG] □

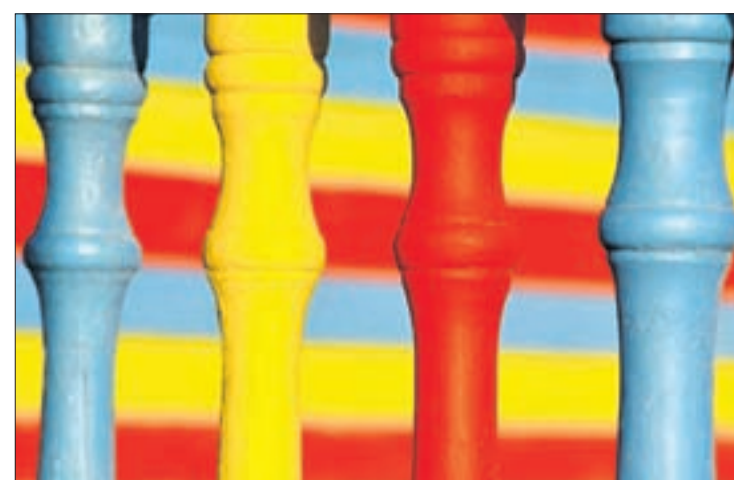
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Dazzling Kings and Queens at Marriott's Associate Quarter Celebration

PALM BEACH, ARUBA (May 15, 2013) – Dazzling tiaras, crowns, robes and evening gowns were a must at Aruba Marriott's associates celebration themed event "Kings and Queens at the resort's Grand Ballroom recently.

On behalf of Marriott's Executive team, Human Resources Director Barbara Bronswinkel thanked all nominees for their excellent service and dedication. Nominated by their managers and supervisors a group of seven associates were chosen All Star Team based on their excellent performances and going beyond expectations for Marriott's guests in the first quarter. The winners of the first quarter were: Herley Acosta Herrera - Casino Beverage, Rudolf Dirks - Engineering Ocean Club, Wilma Benjamin - Pavillion,



Gloria Geerman Arredondo - Housekeeping, Maria Zuleta Armenta - Kitchen, Rosario Carolina - Bellstand Resort and Dwight Lacle - Systems.

In addition for the first quarter supervisors and managers were recognized for their outstanding contribu-

tion to the Marriott. New General Manager of the Surf Club Joop Bangma announced Supervisor Mario van de Werf from Loss Prevention Surf Club as Supervisor of the first Quarter. Mario showed great teamwork and went above and beyond to assist guests. Di-

rector of Revenue Strategy Ben Figaroa recognized Ester Maduro Manager of the first Quarter. Ester has been instrumental implementing strategies to run a high occupancy and a revenue increase for the resort in the first quarter.

All nominees received a

personalized gift and enjoyed a sumptuous dinner buffet. The party tunes were provided by the band Delicious. The Aruba Marriott congratulates all nominees and winners of the first quarter with their great achievements! □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

For support of the Food Bank:

FPNC provides token of appreciation to Playa Linda

PALM BEACH - An initiative of the Playa Linda Beach, in raising funds for the Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC) Food Bank, has brought accolades and appreciation from foundation staff. Indra Stamper, from FPNC, recently presented a token of appreciation for Playa Linda's most recent donation, and for its continued, monetary support, which the Playa Linda has presented each

month over the last year-and-a-half. As part of a continuous program in cultivating ways to provide community support, Playa Linda Beach Resort has instituted its donation program, in which timeshare owners and guests can provide one dollar per guest night to support FPNC. It has yielded results, with visitors participating in the program and helping to

raise funds to feed the community's most vulnerable individuals. "When guests arrive at the front desk, they know nothing of the program or the foundation, but our own passion for the foundation's excellent work comes across when we explain what it does for the community and how well it works to feed families and children most at risk. It is an important effort. If more resorts would join in, it would be ideal," explains Assistant Front Office & Reservations Manager Roosje Roos. Front Office Supervisor Justin Cremony further notes that guests have never displayed a negative reaction to the program, and some guests have responded by donating even more than the suggested sum after reading the hand-out presented on check-in. More information about FPNC is available at www.fpnucaruba.com.



Donations are welcome through area banks: Aruba Bank # 1000; Banco di Caribe #1000; CMB Bank #60001000; or RBC Bank #4419502. Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad's good works can also be followed through its FB account: FPNC Aruba. In the photo, FPNC's Indra Stamper, c, presents a lovely print, with the foun-

dation logo at its center, to Playa Linda's Roosje Roose, I, and Rolando de Cuba, of the resort's Front Office and Reservations Department. The print is of an original artwork by Jamaican artist Neetu, who specially created the work for FPNC to aid in its fundraising efforts, and ultimately, to help stock the shelves of the Aruba Food Bank. □



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extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.





Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts after missing a point against Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych during their match at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Friday, May 17, 2013.
Associated Press

Top-ranked Djokovic beaten by Berdych

ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer
ROME (AP) — Novak Djokovic can't seem to find any consistency on clay courts. And with the French Open less than 10 days away, he will enter Roland Garros on the back of two early defeats. The top-ranked Serb wasted a chance to serve out the match and was beaten 2-6, 7-5, 6-4 by sixth-seeded Tomas Berdych in the Italian Open quarterfinals Friday.

In the semifinals, Berdych will face six-time Rome champion Rafael Nadal, who defeated fellow Spaniard David Ferrer 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. While he struggled at times, Nadal appeared sharper than in his three-set win over Latvian qualifier Ernests Gulbis a day earlier. In the other half of the draw, Roger Federer overcame an early break in the second set to edge rising Polish player Jerzy Janowicz 6-4, 7-6 (2) in a night match at the Foro Italico.

Continued on Page 20

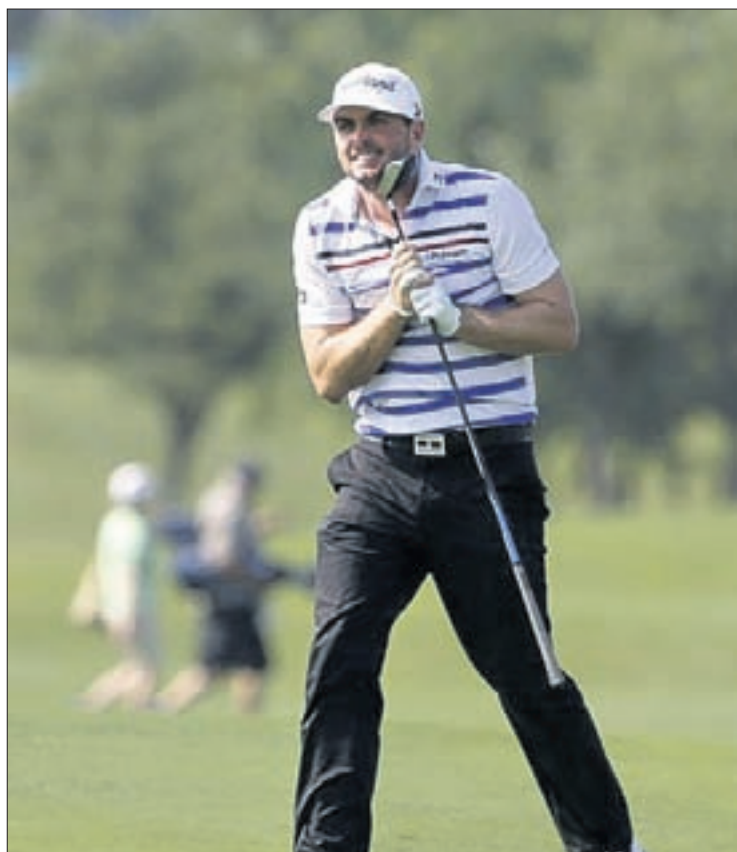


Magic Orb

Orb has gone from ordinary to extraordinary

In this photo taken on Saturday, May 4, 2013, Orb, left, ridden by jockey Joel Rosario, races to the finish line to win the 139th Kentucky Derby horse race at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press
Page 20



Keegan Bradley watches his shot off the 16th fairway during the second round of the Byron Nelson Championship golf tournament on Friday, May 17, 2013, in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press

Bradley has 3-stroke lead after 2 rounds at Nelson

By **STEPHEN HAWKINS**

AP Sports Writer

IRVING, Texas (AP) --

Keegan Bradley again bogeyed Nos. 1 and 18 in the second round of the Byron Nelson Championship.

Unlike the first round, Bradley didn't set a course record. But he still finished with a three-stroke lead.

Bradley started and ended his round Friday with those bogeys, part of a 1-under 69 that got him to 11-under 129, the lowest 36-hole total at the Nelson since 2001.

"I'm almost more proud of this round than yesterday because I didn't feel comfortable all day," said Bradley, whose opening 60

included his only bogeys at those same holes in the middle of that round. "I don't know what it was, I can't put my finger on it but, you know, I bogeyed the first hole. I was a little uncomfortable and then I settled in and hit some really good shots."

Tom Gillis, who shot 63 in the first group of the day off the No. 10 tee, and Sang-Moon Bae (66) were tied for second.

A stroke further back were 2012 PGA Tour rookie of the year John Huh (64), Ryan Palmer (68) and 2011 Masters champion Charl Schwartzel (70). Schwartzel had an opening 63 and was the closest to Bradley after the first round.

"It was a bit up and down out there," said Schwartzel, who had three birdies and three bogeys. "Bit of a frustrating day, but I suppose it's the mix."

Bradley, whose first PGA Tour victory came as a rookie at the Nelson two years ago, started his second round with a drive that missed the fairway at the 458-yard first hole, then left his approach short of the green.

"The first hole is probably the easiest hole out here," he said. "I don't know why I keep making bogey on that hole."

At No. 18, he drove right into rough under the trees again near a cart path. He punched the ball, which rolled and flirted with water to the left before settling into a swale behind the green. He chipped to 6 1/2 feet, but missed the par putt.

"I've got a four-shot lead, so the last thing I wanted to do was plop it in the water. I bailed out," said Bradley, who also won the PGA Championship in 2011 and the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational last year. "I didn't hit that bad of a shot it just got in the wind. I thought it was going to be way left of where it was, but I'm going to hit good ones Saturday and Sunday."

In between those bogeys, Bradley had another bogey at No. 6, four birdies and several nice par-saving shots, including a two-putt from 35 feet after driving into the trees at No. 14 and a blast to 4 feet of the hole from a greenside bunker at No. 15.

Guan Tianlang, the 14-year-old amateur from China, missed the cut with rounds of 70 and 77.

After driving into the rough and then hitting into two bunkers for a double-bogey 6 at No. 12, his third hole Friday, Guan had a 19-foot birdie putt on the following par 3. He then had five consecutive bogeys.

Guan last month made the cut at the Masters and then again in New Orleans, becoming the youngest player ever to make the cut on the PGA Tour. He said he "probably" would stay in the United States to play more golf, but wasn't specific about where or confirm if he would play in a U.S. Open sectional qualifier June 3.

Defending Nelson champion Jason Dufner, playing with good friend Bradley, had his second consecutive 70 to make the cut of even par.

Gillis got rolling with three consecutive birdies, starting with a 13-foot putt at No. 12 before burying a 32-footer on the 180-yard par 3 right after that. His only bogey came at his closing hole, when he three-putted from 12 1/2 feet at the 427-yard ninth hole.

He had played an afternoon round Thursday, when 13 players shot 66 or better in the morning and the only one in the afternoon was Marc Leishman with a 66.

"It was easier, I think the wind was down and I was hoping that we would get a fair shot like they had (Thursday) morning just to see what it would be like," Gillis said. "Definitely, I thought it played better than in the afternoon." □



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Bruins edge Rangers in OT; Kings stun Sharks

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Brad Marchand scored with 4:20 left in the first overtime and the Boston Bruins beat the New York Rangers 3-2 in the first playoff game in 40 years between the Original Six teams. Marchand, Boston's top goal scorer in the regular season, got his first of the postseason on a pass from Patrice Bergeron. Marchand had carried the puck up the right side, passed it to Bergeron and kept going toward the net. Bergeron passed across the slot and Marchand tipped it past goalie Henrik Lundqvist from the left side of the crease. The Bruins carried the play throughout overtime. They applied constant pressure, but couldn't score during a power play when Derek Dorsett was penalized for interference at 2:20 of overtime.

Boston nearly won in regulation, but Johnny Boychuk's shot from the right point clanged off the left post with one-tenth of a second remaining.

KINGS 4, SHARKS 3

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Captain Dustin Brown tied it with 1:43 left and Trevor Lewis scored the tiebreaking power-play goal 22 seconds later, propelling the Kings to a stunning victory and a 2-0 series lead.

Brown scored during a 5-on-3 advantage and Lewis provided the winner on a loose puck with 1:21 left, sending Staples Center into shocked celebration.

The defending Stanley Cup champions won their 12th straight home game since March and their sixth straight postseason game. Marc-Edouard Vlasic scored his first career playoff goal with 11:04 to play for the Sharks, who were



Boston Bruins left wing Brad Marchand (63) is tripped as he shoots on-goal after getting past New York Rangers defenseman Michael Del Zotto (4) during the second period in Game 1 of an NHL hockey playoffs Eastern Conference semifinal game in Boston, Thursday, May 16, 2013.

Associated Press

doomed by two late penalties after rallying from an early two-goal deficit.

Jonathan Quick made 28 saves for the Kings, and Antti Niemi stopped 27

shots for the Sharks. Game 3 is Saturday night at the Shark Tank. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS

Spurs beat Warriors to advance, Knicks stay alive

OAKLAND, California (AP)

— The San Antonio Spurs held off a furious final rally to beat the Golden State Warriors 94-82 in Game 6 on Thursday night and advance to the Western Conference finals.

Tim Duncan had 19 points and six rebounds, Kawhi Leonard scored 16 points and the Spurs won the series in six games.

Tony Parker shook off a poor start to score 10 of his 13 points in the fourth quarter.

Tiago Splitter added a career-playoff high 14 points for San Antonio, which led by 13 late in the third quarter.

Stephen Curry shot 10 of 25 from the floor to score 22 points on a nagging left ankle. Jarrett Jack had 15 points as the injury-saddled Warriors wore down. The Spurs outshot Golden State 45 percent to 39 percent.

Second-seeded San Antonio will open the conference finals at home



New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, left, goes up for a shot against Indiana Pacers' Paul George in the second half of Game 5 of an Eastern Conference semifinal in the NBA basketball playoffs, at Madison Square Garden in New York, Thursday, May 16, 2013.

Associated Press

against Memphis on Sunday.

KNICKS 85, PACERS 75
Carmelo Anthony scored

28 points to help the New York Knicks stay alive in the

Eastern Conference semifinals with an 85-75 victory over the Indiana Pacers in Game 5 on Thursday night. Reserves J.R. Smith and Chris Copeland each had 13 points for the Knicks, who trail 3-2 and will need a victory Saturday in Indiana to force a seventh game back here Monday. They are trying to become the ninth NBA team to overcome a 3-1 deficit to win a series. Anthony, who didn't make a basket in the fourth quarter of either game in Indiana, made a jumper midway through the fourth quarter after Indiana closed within four points. He followed with two free throws, Raymond Felton made a layup, and the Knicks were never in jeopardy again. Paul George had 23 points, six rebounds and six assists for the Pacers, who played without point guard George Hill because of a concussion and committed 19 turnovers.

Berdych

Continued from Page 17

Attempting to win this tournament for the first time, Federer's next opponent will be Benoit Paire. The 36th-ranked Frenchman routed Marcel Granollers of Spain 6-1, 6-0 to reach his first Masters series semifinal. In the women's tournament, top-ranked Serena Williams rolled past Spanish opponent Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 6-0 to extend her winning run to a career-best 22 matches. Williams will next face Romanian qualifier Simona Halep, who rallied past two-time Rome champion Jelena Jankovic 4-6, 6-0, 7-5.

Meanwhile, two-time defending champion Maria Sharapova withdrew before her quarterfinal against seventh-seeded Sara Errani due to illness. Errani, the first Italian semifinalist in this tournament since Raffaella Reggi won the 1985 event in Taranto, will face third-seeded Victoria Azarenka, who held off ninth-seeded Sam Stosur 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

It's the second consecutive week that Djokovic has struggled, having also lost to Grigor Dimitrov in the second round of the Madrid Open after being bothered by a right ankle injury.

Djokovic said he had been playing pain free this week. Still, he will need to get his game in shape in a hurry with the French Open, the year's second Grand Slam, starting May 26.

"I know I can play well on clay and so I shouldn't allow myself to have these drops, and let's hope it won't happen for Roland Garros," Djokovic said of the only major he hasn't won. "I'm fine. I just lost my rhythm."

Djokovic served for the match at 5-3 in the second set, but Berdych ripped a backhand winner that landed on the line on his first break point and won the final four games of the set.

"It's a very strange situation," Djokovic said. "I played very well and was two points from winning. Then the entire match



Czech Republic's Tomas Berdych gestures during his match against Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Friday, May 17, 2013.

Associated Press

changed and I was a different player."

It's the first time Berdych has reached the semifinals in eight appearances in Rome, having been eliminated four times in the quarters.

The tall Czech took control of the match with his big first serve, and by coming forward to angle shots into the corners to set up easy volleys.

Djokovic had trouble re-

turning Berdych's first serve and also complained about the court's surface early on.

In the third set, Berdych went ahead with an early break and then shook off some nerves to close the match out on his fourth match point with a big serve out wide that Djokovic could barely get his racket on.

As overcast skies gave way to sunshine, the court dried

out, favoring Berdych's power game.

"I lost the concentration," Djokovic said. "I started playing more defensively. ... He started playing more confidently, stepping into the court and taking advantage of his opportunities." It was only Berdych's second win in 15 career meetings with Djokovic, with his only previous victory coming in the 2010 Wimbledon semifinals.

It was also only Berdych's fourth win versus a top-ranked player in 20 attempts, with all three previous wins coming against Federer. "He has been for quite a few years just behind the top four," Djokovic said. "He's able to play big matches. He has proven that. So (he) is definitely a very dangerous player on any surface with a serve like that."

Djokovic was 148-4 when winning the first set since 2011, according to the ATP. Williams had twice won 21 in a row before, although both of those runs came a decade ago, in 2002 and 2003. □



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UNIQUE SPORTS ARUBA

Orb favored to take Preakness, set up Triple try

RICHARD ROSENBLATT

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Every-

thing's a go for Orb. The Kentucky Derby winner was in a playful mood the day before the Preakness, making faces for photographers between nibbles of grass outside his stall at Pimlico Race Course.

"He's really settled in well. He seems to be energetic about what he's doing so I couldn't be more pleased," trainer Shug McGaughey said on a warm and sunny Friday morning. "We're excited about giving it a whirl to see if we can get it done and go on to the next step."

Getting it done would mean defeating eight rivals in the 1 3-16-mile Preakness to set up a Triple Crown try in the Belmont Stakes three weeks from Saturday. Orb is the even-money favorite, and there's a growing feeling that this 3-year-old bay colt may be special enough to give thoroughbred racing its first Triple Crown champion since Affirmed in 1978.

"We'd sure love to have that opportunity," said McGaughey, seeming relaxed and confident. "Probably the racing world would love to see it, too. It brings a lot more attention to what we're doing from all standpoints." Orb extended his winning streak to five with a thrilling victory in the Derby two weeks ago, when jockey Joel Rosario patiently guided the colt from 17th to first in the final half mile over a sloppy track.

In the Preakness, Orb will break from the No. 1 post, a spot that has seen only one winner — Tabasco Cat in 1994 — since 1961.

"Who knows how this race is going to go, but I don't think it will be a problem,"

Rosario said of the inside post. "He's a horse that comes from behind, so I really don't think it will affect him. I'm just excited to go into this with a horse who has a chance to win."

A chance?

While rival trainers aren't conceding the race, most agree Orb is the best of the bunch.

"Orb, he's a freak. Right now, everybody should be rooting for Orb, except for the connections of the other horses in the race," trainer Bob Baffert said — and he's got a horse in the race, 12-1 choice Governor Charlie. "Anybody who's not rooting for Orb, there's something mentally wrong with them."

Baffert has been there before. Three of his five Preakness winners had also won the Derby, but were unable to complete the Triple Crown with a win in the Belmont. He says the Preakness is the least stressful of the three races.

"There is absolutely no pressure, believe it or not because you've just won the Derby," he said. "You're flying high and everybody's excited. You don't think about it. The next one (the Belmont) is the pressure."

Getting to the next one may sound easy. It isn't. Six of the past eight Derby winners did not win the Preakness, and McGaughey is well aware of the pitfalls.

"There are a lot of ways you can lose. Freaky things can happen," he said. "You hope he doesn't get in any trouble, you hope he handles the track, you hope he handles the kickback of the dirt, you hope he handles the day. If he does all that, I would have to think it will take a pretty darned good horse to beat him."

Maybe it's Goldencents,



Exercise rider Jennifer Patterson gallops Preakness Stakes favorite and Kentucky Derby winner Orb at Pimlico Race Course Friday, May 17, 2013 in Baltimore. The Preakness Stakes horse race is scheduled for Saturday.

Associated Press

who did not take to the slop at Churchill Downs and finished 17th after winning the Santa Anita Derby in April.

"Orb's not like a one-race hit. All year long he's been super impressive," said Goldencents trainer Doug O'Neill, who won the Derby and Preakness last year with I'll Have Another, only to scratch the colt the day before the Belmont because of a tendon injury. "But we've seen Goldencents do some brilliant things in the afternoon. If he does, I think he can beat him."

Maybe it's Itsmyluckyday, another top 3-year-old who did not handle the sloppy track and finished 15th in the Derby.

"He's given me every sign that he's ready for the war; he's ready for the race; he's ready for the battle," trainer Eddie Plesa Jr., said. "Let's just get it on."

Or maybe it's Departing, one of the three horses in the race who did not run

in the Derby. Orb knows Departing well — the two were pals growing up at Claiborne Farm in Paris, Ky., and ran around together in the same field. The gelding has won four of five starts, and comes into the Preakness off a win in the Illinois Derby.

And, of course, there's D. Wayne Lukas, who has three of the nine entries in Oxbow, Will Take Charge and Titledown Five, a colt owned by Green Bay Packers greats Paul Hornung and Willie Davis. Lukas, like Baffert, has five Preakness wins, and his next victory in a Triple Crown race would give him a record 14 — one more than "Sunny Jim" Fitzsimmons.

Oxbow was sixth and Will Take Charge eighth in the Derby, while Titledown Five is a maiden winner who ran fourth in the Derby Trial.

"You have to be careful about that much emphasis on one race," Lukas said of Orb's Derby win. "You change the surface, you

shorten the race, you put him in the one hole. These are things he'll have to overcome. He's the best horse. It's his race to lose. But it only takes one horse to spoil your day."

Weather could be a factor, too. The latest forecast for Saturday is calling for a 50 percent chance of rain with temperatures reaching the low 70s.

While Orb will take his shot at becoming the 34th horse with a chance at the Triple Crown — 11 have done it, 19 failed and three others did not run in the Belmont — several other historic milestones are in play. Rosie Napravnik will be aboard 5-1 second choice Mylute in an attempt to become the first female to win the Preakness and Kevin Krigger, who rides Goldencents, looks to become the first black jockey to win since Willie Simms with Sly Fox in 1898.

Orb's rapid rise began with his win in the Fountain of Youth, followed by a solid victory in the Florida Derby before he ran off with the Kentucky Derby. The colt is co-owned by racing royalty — Ogden Mills "Dinny" Phipps and his first cousin, Marylander Stuart Janney III. They run their racing operation the traditional way — breeding and racing their own horses rather than attending sales and trying to buy champions.

McGaughey has been the Phipps' trainer for 28 years, and has campaigned such champions as Easy Goer, Inside Information and the undefeated Personal Ensign.

"This has kind of shown that with Stuart Janney's relationship with breeding that it can be done in a different way," McGaughey said. □

AL Capsules

Middlebrooks' 3-run double keys Boston win

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) —

Will Middlebrooks had a three-run double off closer Fernando Rodney with two outs in the ninth inning that lifted the Boston Red Sox past the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 on Thursday night.

Middlebrooks lined a shot to left on a 1-2 pitch from Rodney (1-2) with the base loaded, giving the Red Sox the lead. Rodney, who blew just two saves last year, is 7 for 10 in save opportunities this year.

After walking Dustin Pedroia and David Ortiz, Rodney struck out Mike Napoli before loading the bases with a walk to Daniel Nava. Stephen Drew struck out, but Middlebrooks then came up with his bases-clearing hit.

Junichi Tazawa (3-2) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. He retired James Loney on a ground-



Boston Red Sox's Daniel Nava leaps as he celebrates with teammate Dustin Pedroia, left, after scoring on a three-run, ninth-inning double by Will Middlebrooks off Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Fernando Rodney during a baseball game Thursday, May 16, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

er with two on and two outs in the ninth.

RANGERS 10, TIGERS 4
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) —

Geovany Soto ended Justin Verlander's night with a three-run homer that capped a seven-run third, and Yu Darvish lasted eight innings in a pitching duel that fizzled in the Rangers' victory over the Tigers.

Soto's drive just over the wall in left field came after Verlander walked in two runs — he had three previous bases-loaded walks in his career. Mitch Moreland's two-out double broke a 3-all tie before Soto's drive put Texas ahead 8-3.

Darvish (7-1) won his fifth straight decision despite allowing two home runs for the third start in a row.

Verlander (4-4) gave up six hits with two walks and three strikeouts in 2 2-3 innings, his shortest outing since going two innings in a 14-6 loss to the New York Mets on June 22, 2010.

MARINERS 3, YANKEES 2
NEW YORK (AP) — Andy

Pettitte and Chris Stewart became the latest Yankees to get hurt, and emergency Seattle starter Hector Noesi pitched into the fifth inning in place of ailing Aaron Harang to lead the Mariners over New York.

Pettitte (4-3) left after 4 2-3 innings because of an injured back muscle near his left shoulder. New York said Pettitte hurt his trapezius muscle, and there was no immediate word on his prognosis.

Chris Stewart, who took over as the Yankees' starting catcher when Francisco Cervelli broke a hand last month, limped off after the seventh inning and was replaced by Austin Romine.

Harang, Seattle's scheduled starter, felt a twinge in his back Wednesday and notified the Mariners, who in turn told Noesi to prepare for his first big league start of the season. □

NL Capsules

Strasburg goes 8 to beat hometown Padres 6-2

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Stephen Strasburg pitched a career-high eight innings against his hometown Padres, and Bryce Harper and Adam LaRoche homered to lead the Washington Nationals to a 6-2 victory against San Diego on Thursday night.

Strasburg's 54th big league start was his first professional appearance at Petco Park.

The big right-hander went to high school in suburban Santee and pitched for Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn at San Diego State before the Nationals took him with the first overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft. He pitched twice at Petco Park for SDSU.

He allowed two runs, one earned, on three hits while striking out four and walking three. He got the final out of the eighth on his 117th pitch.

Strasburg (2-5) had gone seven innings 10 times, including three this year.

In Strasburg's only other appearance against the Padres, he lasted just four innings in a 6-1 loss at Washington on May 15, 2012.

Edison Volquez (3-4) took the loss.

METS 5, CARDINALS 2

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Daniel Murphy and David Wright combined for five hits and three RBIs against Adam Wainwright and the Mets snapped a six-game losing streak with a victory over the Cardinals.

Jonathan Niese (3-4) allowed two runs on six hits in 7 1-3 innings, his longest outing of the season. He ended his four-game losing streak over five starts since a win at Minnesota on April 12.

The Mets avoided a four-game sweep by getting to the Cardinals ace. Wainwright (5-3) was coming off

a two-hit shutout in which he no-hit the Rockies for 7 1-3 innings.

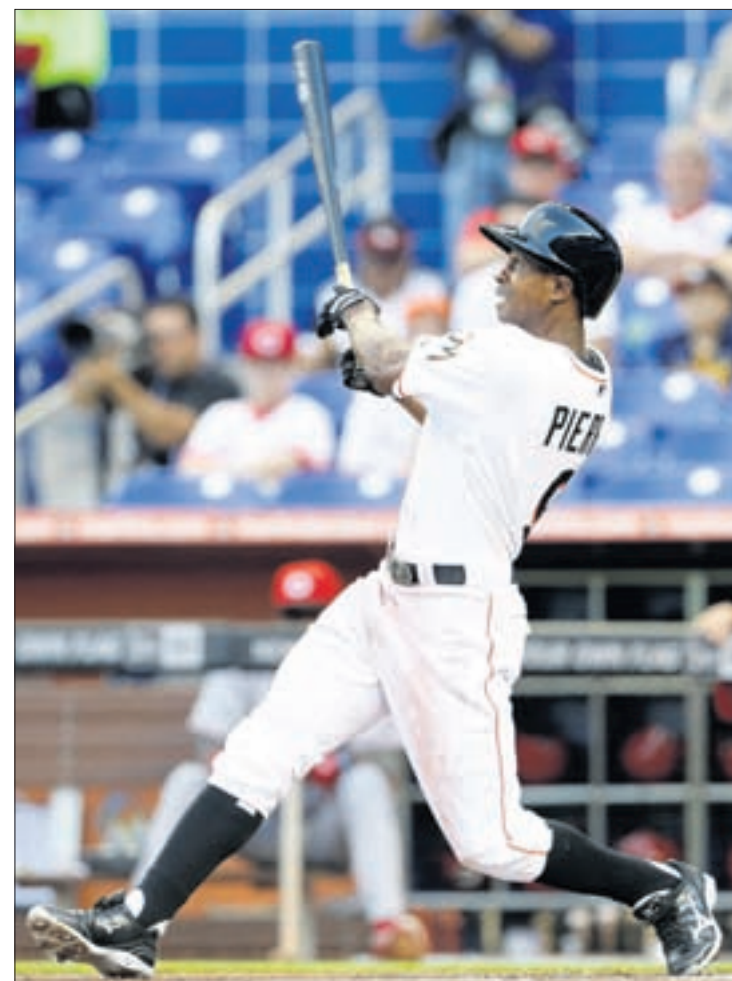
Murphy went 4 for 4, doubled twice and walked, and was 9 for 15 in the series. Wright doubled, singled and drove in two runs. The Cardinals have never swept the Mets in a four-game series at home, almost always playing three-game sets.

REDS 5, MARLINS 3, 10 innings

MIAMI (AP) — NL RBI leader Brandon Phillips homered in the sixth inning and drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly, helping the Reds complete their second three-game sweep in a row by beating the Marlins.

Mat Latos and two relievers combined on a six-hitter. Aroldis Chapman (3-1) blew a save for the first time in nine chances.

J.J. Hoover gave up a run in the 10th but earned his



Miami Marlins' Juan Pierre follows through on a solo home run in the first inning during a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds in Miami, Thursday, May 16, 2013.

Associated Press

third save.

Pinch-hitter Donald Lutz led off the 10th with a single against Steve Cishek (1-4). Following a walk, a bunt and an intentional walk,

Phillips lifted a flyball for his second RBI of the night and 36th of the season.

Jay Bruce followed with a two-run double and finished with three RBIs. □

Poetry finally joining e-book revolution

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Over the past two years, publishers have been steadily filling one of the largest gaps in the e-book catalogue — poetry. Adrienne Rich, Allen Ginsberg, Langston Hughes and Wallace Stevens have been among the poets whose work recently became available in electronic format. And Random House Inc., W.W. Norton and several other publishers now routinely release new books in both print and digital versions, including last month's Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry, Sharon Olds' "Stag's Leap."

"In the spring of 2010, we actually formed a team to focus on books that were complicated to make into e-books, like poetry and illustrated nonfiction," says Liisa McCloy-Kelley, Random House Inc.'s vice president and director of e-book production, strategy and operations. "Over the past 20 months, we really shifted into production."

The problem had been how to transfer a poem from paper to screen without either breaking a line up — a primal violation of the art form — or making the font size too small to read. It's unlikely that publishers can design a perfect solution, but they have managed to find acceptable compromises. In part, they credit

advances in technology that make it easier to keep the original look intact. They also cite a technique long used in print.

The hanging indent.

The poet's worst fear is for a line to break up randomly, ruining the rhythm and mood of the verse. But publishers and poets have been agreeable to ending the line at a specific word, then creating a second, indented line, alerting the reader that the train of thought belongs with the line above. For instance, here are the first two lines of Olds' poem "Love," as they appear in the hardcover edition:

I had thought it was something we were in. I had thought we were in it that day, in the capital

Here is how they look on an iPad 3:
I had thought it was something we were in. I had thought we were in it that day, in the capital
Poetry e-sales are a tiny subset of poetry sales, a perennial subset in publishing. But for publishers, and poets, it's less about commerce than accessibility. Olds says she doesn't have a lot of interest in e-books and has not seen the electronic edition of "Stag's Leap," but that she "certainly respected the fact that readers like to read in different ways." Poet Philip Levine allowed such collections as the

Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Simple Truth" to be digitized, even though he also has little personal interest in e-books.

"I don't think the people who would buy an e-book of one of my books, or one of (W.S.) Merwin's books would want it other than what it's supposed to look like," Levine said.

Part of the challenge is the devices themselves, with screens varying in size and feel from Apple's iPad touchscreen to such smaller, standalone devices as Amazon.com's Kindle and Barnes & Noble's Nook. The e-book editions for Random House and other publishers will commonly include a reader's note that suggests the proper font size for a given device.

Some works are especially challenging, like Anne Carson's collection "Red Doc," in which poems begins at various points on a given page. Random House decided on a fixed format, according to McCloy-Kelley, who says that the text "cannot be enlarged without a pinch and zoom," meaning it can only be changed on a touchscreen. The verse of the late Greek poet C.P. Cavafy, who sometimes used extra spaces between words, proved so difficult to set accurately that English-language translator Daniel Mendelsohn settled for an e-book edition admittedly



This March 26, 1953 file photo shows poet and author Langston Hughes speaking before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in Washington, D.C.

Associated Press

much different than what appeared on paper.

"You have to accommodate to a new medium in order to survive," says Mendelsohn, an award-winning author and critic. "I take the long view and say, 'It was ever thus.' When the Greek tragedies were first written down, the lines were written straight across the page, with no distinction of different speakers and no stage directions. Now, you obviously want to identify the speakers. The original way is not necessarily the ideal."

Smaller presses have cited limited budgets as a deterrent to digitizing. But a top poetry publisher, Copper Canyon Press, last year began an e-book program funded by a grant from the Paul G. Allen Foundation.

Copper Canyon has issued electronic versions of collections by former U.S. poet laureates Charles Simic and Ted Kooser, along with dozens of other works.

"One of the things we've done is put a note at the beginning of the book to show which is the longest line of the poem," said Copper Canyon's e-book coordinator, Amelia Robertson. "The note demonstrates what will happen if that line is broken up and suggests the best setting on the device for keeping the line intact." Progress is incomplete and some of the best poets of modern times remain entirely or mostly unavailable in electronic format, from Merwin and Richard Wilbur to Robert Lowell and Elizabeth Bishop. □

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Stocks rise on hopeful signs for the US economy

STEVE ROTHWELL

AP Market Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Encouraging news about the U.S. economy extended the stock market's rally Friday. A gauge of future economic activity rose more than analysts had expected, as did a measure of consumer confidence, adding to evidence that the economy is steadily recovering.

Stocks closed higher for a fourth straight week. Indexes are at record levels after surging this year on optimism about the economy and record corporate earnings. The market is also being supported by ongoing stimulus from the Federal Reserve, which is keeping long-term borrowing costs at historically low levels. "This slow but relatively steady growth, that keeps inflation in check and keeps interest rates low, is actually a pretty healthy environment for the stock market," said Liz Ann Sonders, chief investment strategist at Charles Schwab & Co. "Right now we are very optimistic."

General Motors rose \$1.03, or 3.2 percent, to \$33.42. The automaker's stock is trading above the \$33 price of its November, 2010 initial public offering for the

first time in two years.

Northrop Grumman gained \$3.17, or 3.2 percent, to \$82.19 after the defense contractor said its board approved the repurchase of another \$4 billion in stock, and that it plans to buy back a quarter of its outstanding shares by the end of 2015.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 121.18 points, or 0.8 percent, to 15,354.40. The index gained 1.6 percent for the week and is up 17.2 percent for the year. The index started higher, then drifted through the rest of the morning. The index added to its gains in the afternoon, climbing about 70 points in the last two hours of the day.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index climbed 15.65 points, or 1 percent, to 1,666.12. The gauge is up 2 percent this week and has gained 16.8 percent this year.

After some lackluster reports on the economy Thursday, including slowing manufacturing and an increase in applications for unemployment benefits, Friday's reports were a tonic for investors.

The Conference Board said its index of leading economic indicators rose 0.6 percent last month after a revised decline of 0.2 per-

cent in March. The index is intended to predict how the economy will be doing in three to six months.

The University of Michigan's preliminary survey of consumer confidence climbed to 83.7. Economists had

predicted that the gauge would climb to 76.8.

The strength of the rally in stocks has taken many by surprise, leaving investors waiting for a drop in prices to get into the market, said Jim Anderson, an investment specialist at JPMor-

gan. The S&P 500 index hasn't fallen for two consecutive days for a month.

"Everyone is waiting for a pullback," Anderson said. "Every client asks me, 'When are we getting a pullback?' With so many



Specialist Charles Boeddinghaus works at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Encouraging news about the U.S. economy extended the stock market's rally Friday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

people waiting for it, and pouncing on it when it arrives, it's over so quickly."

As well as giving stocks a lift, the positive economic reports also pushed government bond yields higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.96

sharply in April. The note started trading that day at 1.63 percent, its low for the year. The move to riskier assets also gave small stocks a lift. The Russell 2000, an index of smaller companies, rose 10.94 points, or 1.1 percent, to 996.28. □

Gauge of US economy's future health up in April

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A measure of the U.S. economy's future health rose solidly in April, buoyed by a sharp rise in applications to build homes and a better job market.

The Conference Board said Friday that its index of leading indicators increased 0.6 percent last month to a reading of 95. That followed a 0.2 percent decline in March.

The index is intended to signal economic conditions three to six months out.

Conference Board economist Ken Goldstein said the index is 3.5 percent higher at an annual rate than it was six months ago, suggesting expansion for the

economy.

Goldstein said that steady job gains and a recovering housing market are driving the economy and helping offset deep federal spending cuts that threaten growth. The index is composed of 10 forward-pointing indicators. Strength in April came from the surge in building permits, a drop in applications for unemployment benefits and a rising stock market.

Holding the index back in April: Weaker consumer confidence and a decline in the average hours worked at U.S. factories.

A separate report Friday showed consumer confidence jumped to near a six-year high in early May. The University of Mich-

igan's consumer sentiment index rose to 83.7, up from 76.4 in April.

Economists attributed the gain to record-high stock prices, cheaper gas and solid employment gains.

"Changes in confidence don't always filter through into changes in spending, but the omens are good," said Amna Asaf, an economist at Capital Economics. The job market has also improved over the past six months. The economy has added an average of 208,000 jobs a month since November. That's up from only 138,000 a month in the previous six months.

Unemployment has fallen to a four-year low of 7.5 percent.

A rebound in housing,

along with a limited supply of homes for sale, has lifted the construction industry.

Construction cooled off in April, as builders broke ground on fewer homes after topping the 1 million mark in March for the first time since 2008. But most of the decline was in apartment construction, which tends to vary sharply from month to month.

The most encouraging sign for the industry last month was that applications for new construction reached a five-year peak. That suggests the housing revival will be sustained.

Builders are benefiting from a sustained rebound in housing that began a year ago. Steady job growth, rock-bottom mortgage

rates and rising home values have boosted demand.

The overall economy grew at an annual rate of 2.5 percent in the January-March quarter, up from a rate of just 0.4 percent in the October-December quarter. The fastest expansion in consumer spending in more than two years drove economic growth in the first quarter.

Many economists expect growth is slowing slightly in the current April-June period to around 2 percent. Still, cheaper gas prices helped consumers boost spending at retail businesses last month. Consumer spending accounts for nearly 70 percent of economic activity. □

Oil gains to nearly \$96

PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

The price of oil rose to near \$96 a barrel on Friday ahead of the release of Conference Board's index of leading indicators for the U.S. economy.

By early afternoon in Europe, benchmark oil for June delivery was up 45 cents to \$95.61 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 86 cents on Thursday.

The Conference Board's index attempts to gauge what's coming over the next several months — investors will watch it for clues about the strength of the recovery in the world's largest economy.

Analysts, however, say the upward momentum in oil prices may be limited amid signs that the U.S. and European economies still face considerable challenges.

Applications for U.S. unemployment aid rose last week by 32,000 to a seasonally adjusted 360,000, the highest in six weeks, the Labor Department said this week. A report on housing was neutral, while manufacturing in the mid-Atlantic region fell. That data came on top of confirmation that the 17-nation euro region remained in recession after contracting for a sixth-straight quarter in the January-March period.

"Several forces should keep the region in recession, including continued fiscal austerity, poor credit conditions in peripheral economies and weak external demand," analysts at Capital Economics said in a market commentary.

"The U.S. is the only major advanced economy to have achieved steady growth since 2009. The latest data have been mixed, but the fundamentals look strong enough to sustain a solid, if unspectacular, recovery."

Oil prices are likely to be limited also by a stronger dollar, which makes crude more expensive for traders using other currencies, and reports showing U.S. stockpiles of crude are near all-time highs. □

Motor City Milestone: GM stock rises above \$33 for first time in 2 years

TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Shares of General Motors reached an important milestone on Friday, closing above their initial public offering price of \$33 for the first time in more than two years. GM shares reached \$33.77 Friday before slipping back to close at \$33.42, up 3.2 percent. The auto giant sold shares to the public for \$33 in a November 2010 IPO, but they've traded below that price since May

double-digit gains this year. GM and Ford are benefiting from strong sales in the U.S. as well as China. And investors believe the Japanese government's economic policies create an advantage for exporters such as Toyota and Honda. Investors' overall enthusiasm for stocks has also helped automakers' shares. And as stock markets set records, investors use some of their gains for a down payment on a car or truck.

may hasten its exit. That would be fine with GM, which has long complained that government ownership has discouraged some car buyers from considering GM cars and trucks and steered some investors away from the shares.

In general, consumers have been anything but discouraged about buying cars. An improving job market and the Federal Reserve's low-interest rate policies are helping. Also,

shares can climb.

Itay Michaeli of Citi Investment Research gives GM a "Buy" rating with a one-year price target of \$38.

But Jamie Albertine, an auto analyst with Stifel Nicolaus, is keeping a "Hold" recommendation on GM, saying the price surge isn't backed by broader economic indicators in the U.S. "There's still a very big and profound disconnect between the market and what the average Joe is experiencing," he said.

GM, he said, has done a lot right since the IPO. The company has bolstered its balance sheet by generating cash and cutting pension liabilities buying back shares from the government. There's a possibility of resuming a dividend.

The company also is replacing its models at a faster rate than in the past, Albertine said. But while the Cadillac brand has seen sales improve, Chevrolet, by far GM's largest brand, lacks hits. "I don't think they have many game-changers," he said.

GM hopes it has a hit with the redesigned Silverado and Sierra pick-up trucks, due to hit showrooms soon. The Silverado is the second-highest selling pickup in the U.S. after Ford's F-series. The company said the new trucks should boost North American profits in the second half of the year.

GM wasn't the only stock to hit highs on Friday. Ford Motor Co. shares closed at \$15.08, the first close above \$15 since May 2011. U.S. shares of Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co., and Nissan Motor Co. all hit 52-week intraday highs. □



Workers inspect Chevrolet Spin multi purpose vehicles at the General Motors Indonesia manufacturing facility in Bekasi, West Java, Indonesia. Shares of General Motors reached an important milestone on Friday, closing above their initial public offering price of \$33 for the first time in more than two years.
(AP Photo/Tatan Syuflana)

4, 2011.

GM's business is getting stronger. Two weeks ago, GM reported solid first-quarter earnings on robust sales in North America. On Friday, there were signs sales declines may have bottomed in Europe — where GM has lost money for more than a dozen years.

Shares of all automakers traded in the U.S. show

But GM's 14 percent gain this year is also notable because of its top shareholder: the U.S. Treasury.

The government has been selling off the GM shares it received after providing the company with a \$49.5 billion bailout in 2008 and 2009. The government has pledged to sell off taxpayers' remaining 16 percent stake in GM by early next year. The rising stock price

GM and Ford are finally getting credit for improvements they've made in their finances and vehicles, said David Whiston, an analyst with Morningstar.

Sales hit 14.5 million last year after bottoming out at 10.4 million in 2009, and they're expected to rise as high as 15.5 million this year.

Still, analysts are divided on how much further GM

Marketo jumps in 1st day trading on Nasdaq

NEW YORK (AP) — Shares of Marketo, a provider of cloud-based marketing software, leaped in their trading debut on Friday. The stock rose \$7.70, or 59.2 percent, to \$20.70 in afternoon trading. The shares were priced at \$13, at the high end of the expected range of \$11 to \$13 per

share. The broader markets rose just under 1 percent. Marketo raised about \$79.3 million in the offering.

The initial public offering of approximately 6.1 million shares included about 5.8 million shares being offered by Marketo Inc. and 309,509 shares from selling stockholders. The San Ma-

teo, Calif. company won't receive any proceeds from stock sold by selling shareholders. Marketo said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that it planned to use net proceeds from the offering and a concurrent private placement for working capital and other

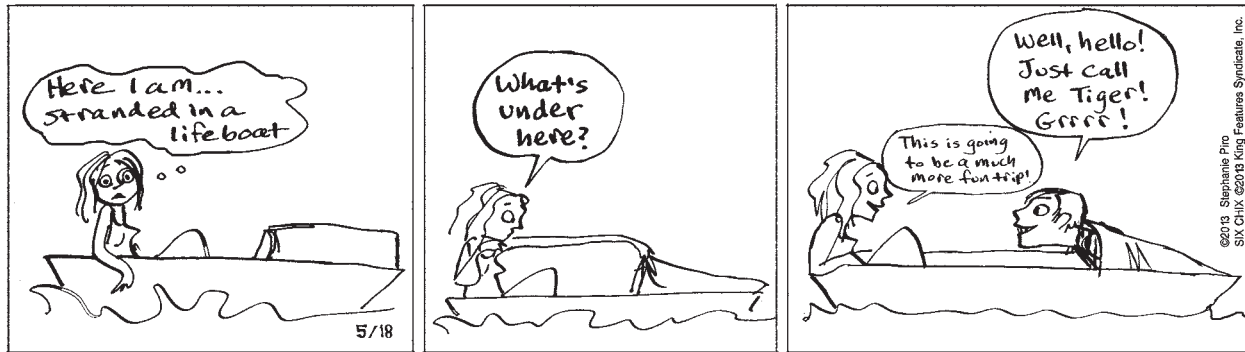
general corporate purposes. The company said that it may also use part of the proceeds to buy or invest in complementary businesses, products, services, technologies or other assets.

The shares are listed on the Nasdaq under the "MKTO" ticker symbol. □

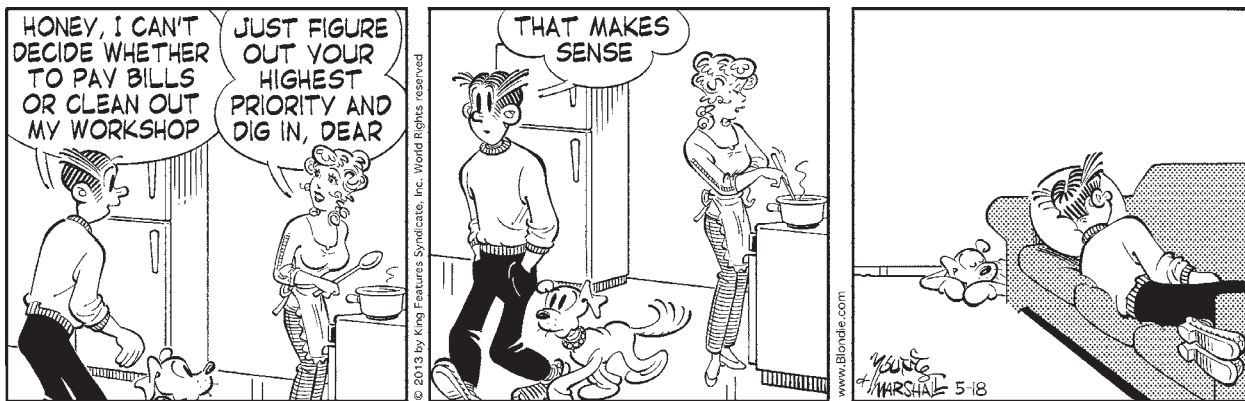
Mutts



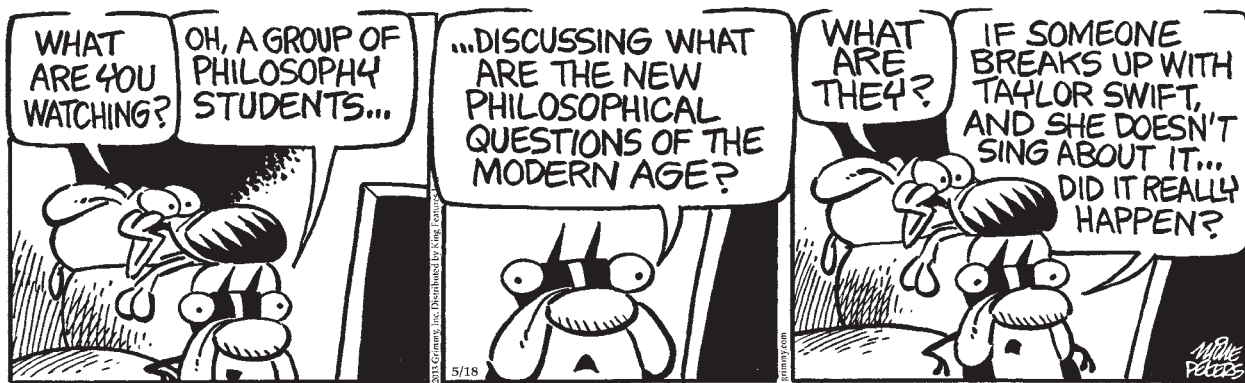
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Blondie



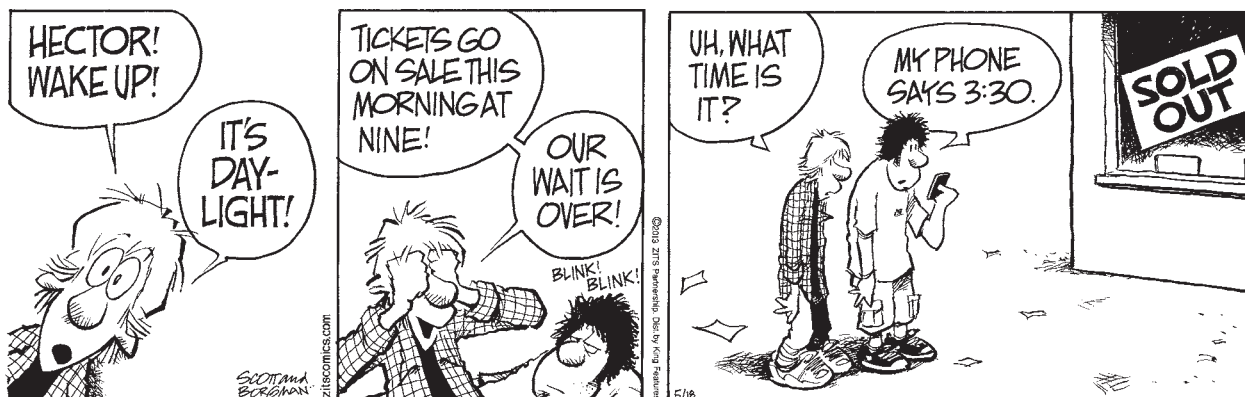
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

2			5				4
8		3	7		4	6	1
	7					6	
6			4				9
	3					8	
4		6	1		8	3	2
1			7				6

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/18

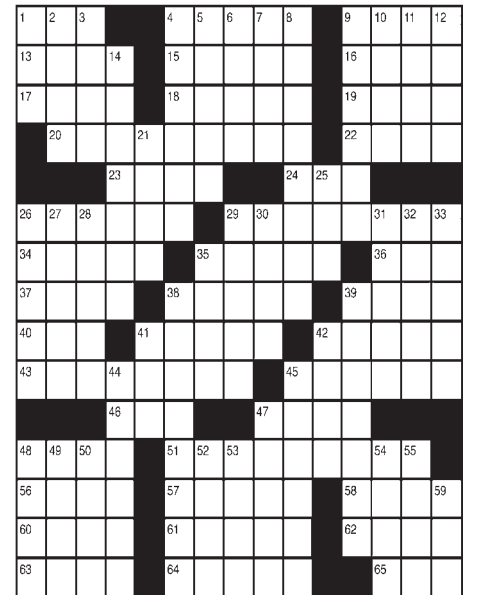
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	1	7	5	3	4	6	8	2
3	8	2	1	6	7	5	4	9
4	6	5	9	8	2	1	7	3
7	4	9	6	5	3	2	1	8
5	2	6	4	1	8	3	9	7
1	3	8	2	7	9	4	5	6
6	7	4	3	9	1	8	2	5
2	9	3	8	4	5	7	6	1
8	5	1	7	2	6	9	3	4

ACROSS

- 1 Kettle
- 4 Receded
- 9 Dinghy or dory
- 13 Way out
- 15 Treasure ___; valuable cache
- 16 Nervous
- 17 Lima's nation
- 18 Takes on employees
- 19 Cranny
- 20 Poverty
- 22 Strong desire
- 23 Under the weather
- 24 Shade tree
- 26 ___ by the rules; is obedient
- 29 Thiamin deficiency disease
- 34 Delany and Carvey
- 35 Crumble cheese
- 36 Allow
- 37 Friendly nation
- 38 Boat docks
- 39 Singer Lady ___
- 40 Word of mild surprise
- 41 Keeps
- 42 Part of a flower
- 43 Highly respected
- 45 Certainly
- 46 Space; opening
- 47 Squirmy bait
- 48 Whip
- 51 Make blush
- 56 Reddish horse
- 57 Pot ___; braised cut of beef
- 58 Ark builder
- 60 Resound
- 61 Upper crust
- 62 Therefore
- 63 Brutal gangster
- 64 Dissuade
- 65 Dine



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

5/18/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

RIVAL	ABED	SURE
ALIVE	HALE	USER
SKEIN	ERIN	RHEA
HAWAIIAN	NOVELS	
TEND	DIVERSE	
ASCEND	CASEY	
LEO	TIGHT	NOOKS
PALM	AIRE	RINK
STEAL	RISER	LEI
TOOLS	LESSEN	
ASSISTS	DAME	
SPINET	SAYONARA	
SANE	AWED	VIGOR
EDGE	WIND	ELECT
TEES	ANDY	DESKS

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5/18/13

DOWN

- 1 Get-up-and-go
- 2 Plow animals
- 3 Grow weary
- 4 Set of moral principles
- 44 Holiday drink
- 45 One who puts things into categories
- 47 Use foolishly
- 48 Worry
- 49 Scotland's Lomond
- 50 Hawaiian island
- 52 Beauty spot
- 53 Harass; push someone's buttons
- 54 Tender to the touch
- 55 Long story
- 59 Very spicy

Clinging to relevance by their fingernails? On with the show!



Jimmy Kimmel during the ABC upfront presentation for 2013-2014, in an undated handout photo. The network upfronts, which took place in mid May 2013 across Manhattan, are dress-up gatherings at which networks large and small unveil their coming schedules for advertisers and try to make the case that their shows are a better ad buy than anyone else's shows.
(Ida Mae Astute/ABC via The New York Times)

NEIL GENZLINGER

© 2013 New York Times

The network upfronts are about entertainment, but how do they stack up as entertainment?

Go to one of them - it doesn't matter which - and you'll probably come away thinking: "Two hours of cheesy hype with a few good jokes thrown in." Go to a bunch, though, and you might start to view them as artfully constructed character studies, poignant tableaux in which a central figure - the network - uses a facade of jokes and stardust to hide a mass of fears and insecurities. Dang it, these gaudy spectacles are actually small masterpieces in the best tears-of-a-clown tradition. The upfronts, which took place this week across Manhattan, are dress-up gatherings at which networks large and small unveil their coming schedules for advertisers and try to make the case that their shows are a better

ad buy than anyone else's shows. Making that case generally involves leading with some jokes, then reminding the audience that each and every one of the network's returning series or sports programs is the most-watched show on television among some obscure demographic. At some point, glimpses are provided of new series, all of which feature the most exciting actors working today and were created by someone who once had a series or movie that was successful or at least wasn't a complete flop. Stars are trotted out to wave and then go back to wherever it is that TV stars spend their downtime. Throughout, the crowd is pummeled with so many dizzying video collages that pop-up migraine clinics materialize outside the theaters.

A talk-show type, if the network has one, might do a jokey monologue, and the executives too try their hand at stand-up. The most

fearless is Steve Koonin, president of Turner Entertainment Networks, who this year served up a funny bit in which he did acrobatic flips, juggled while riding a unicycle and showed off formidable break-dancing skills. At least, it looked like him. The flashy stunts were actually performed by look-alikes, dressed and bewigged to mimic his distinctive appearance, which is - to be polite - not particularly athletic.

Staid CBS surprised the crowd at Carnegie Hall with a funny bit by Jo Ann Ross, the network's president of sales, who announced that she was not there to give the ad buyers in the audience a hard sell. While she spoke, messages such as "Buy" and "Your ad here" were projected onto her skirt.

Later in CBS' event, Robin Williams, who will have a new series called "The Cra-

zy Ones" on the network this fall, vamped for a few minutes about the good old days, when ideas for new shows were hatched amid mounds of cocaine. Is it a good sign when your president of sales is funnier than your biggest fall-season star? Maybe not. (Another not-good sign: Both the CBS event and NBC's at Radio City Music Hall featured parodies of the same "Les Misérables" song. Thus is creativity defined in TV land.) Taken collectively, the executive humor at the up-fronts tends to be rooted in self-deprecation. □

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U.S. potato giant bets on biotech potatoes

JOHN MILLER

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A dozen years after a customer revolt forced Monsanto to ditch its genetically engineered potato, another company aims to resurrect high-tech spuds.

This month, tuber processing giant J.R. Simplot Co. asked the U.S. government to approve five varieties of biotech potatoes. They're engineered not to develop ugly black bruises. McDonald's, which gets many of its fries from Simplot, rejects those. They're also designed to have less of a natural but potentially cancer-causing neurotoxin, acrylamide.

Much has changed in 12 years, according to the Boise-based company.

Unlike transgenic varieties Monsanto commercialized in the 1990s using genes from synthetic bacteria to kill insect pests, Simplot's new "Innate"-brand potatoes use only potato genes.

Haven Baker, Simplot's Yale- and Harvard University-trained vice-president of plant sciences, said his scientists journeyed inside the vegetable's genome to "silence" unwanted attributes, while making sure it remained 100 percent potato.

"You'll never get as much beneficial effect from traditional plant breeding," he said. "And it'll take twice as long."

Those in the industry remember Monsanto's ill-fated foray and say Simplot's major challenge in avoiding a similar fate is ensuring its product is acceptable among growers, processors and, ultimately, people eating it.

"Unless your customers are prepared to embrace



This Friday, May 10, 2013 photo shows a genetically engineered potato poking through the soil of a planting pot inside J.R. Simplot's lab in southwestern Idaho. Simplot is seeking U.S. regulatory approval to market the potatoes — which resist browning and are designed to produce lower levels of potentially cancer-causing acrylamide when fried — to growers and, eventually, consumers.

Associated Press

this product, it's not going to be successful," said Frank Muir, president of the Idaho Potato Commission that represents Idaho's \$3 billion industry. His group, whose website boasts Ida-

right moves: Reaching out to the industry, as well as consumers who may eventually buy Innate potatoes as big, un-bruised bakers or golden fries. "They're taking all the appropriate

tian Schlect, the Northwest Horticultural Council president, said he hopes the potatoes go to market first. "We'd just as soon the potato people take the initial foray on marketing this technology, and we'll follow their experience," he said. In fact, the two products, should they win the government's blessing, could hit customers about the same time, 2015 or 2016. Baker said with Simplot's new potatoes, growers would earn more money with less wastage from bruising, something that can affect up to 5 percent of their harvest. Additionally, the spuds are designed to produce acrylamide levels so low they skirt California's strict, voter-mandated cancer labels on french fries and potato chips, he said.

McDonald's didn't return a call seeking comment about the tubers. A big Simplot processing rival, ConAgra, says its potatoes are not genetically engineered.

Twelve years on, St. Louis-based Monsanto remains tight lipped about jettisoning its "New Leaf" potatoes — engineered, among other things, to kill Colorado potato beetles. That was a business decision "not influenced by any negative reaction to

genetically-modified organisms," spokeswoman Carly Scaduto said.

But experts say plunging interest — including from Simplot, which told farmers in Idaho and North Dakota in 2000 to quit planting New Leaf potatoes after restaurants like McDonald's banished them from their fryers — drove the spuds from the fields. Monsanto's biotech potatoes, planted on 55,000 acres in North America in 1996, disappeared by 2002.

Joe Guenther, a University of Idaho professor of agricultural economics, in 2011 won funding from Simplot to survey potato industry players about reintroducing genetically engineered potatoes into the food chain. His conclusion: It could succeed, provided potatoes were modified with potato genes, not foreign microorganisms that in the 1990s spawned terms like " Frankenfood."

"The Monsanto product crossed that species line," Guenther said. "The exciting thing about the Simplot product is, it stays within the potato species."

Another thing Guenther's 2011 report said would help was backing from an environmental group, something that remains a scarce commodity. Groups worried about corporations commandeering potato genes a decade ago remain no less alarmed.

Bill Freese, science policy analyst with Washington, D.C.-based Center for Food Safety, said Simplot's potatoes join a litany of other genetically engineered crops that don't face rigorous-enough USDA or FDA testing.

While Simplot's Baker said 20 field trials demonstrate Innate potatoes exhibit characteristics virtually identical to their unmodified cousins, Freese painted a darker picture: Genetic engineering is a noisy, unpredictable process, where the best-intentioned genome tinkering could be accompanied by unforeseen effects on human health and the environment. □



This Friday, May 10, 2013 photo shows genetically engineered potatoes growing in rows inside a J.R. Simplot greenhouse in southwestern Idaho.

Associated Press

ho potatoes aren't genetically engineered, hasn't weighed in on Simplot's endeavor.

But Muir does think the company is making the

steps."

As the USDA and Food and Drug Administration embark on vetting Simplot's potatoes, the agencies are nearing completion of a similar review of a genetically engineered apple created by a Canadian company, Okanogan Specialty Fruits, to resist browning when cut.

The apple industry has opposed Okanogan's "Arctic" apple, on grounds it could create marketing headaches for growers of unmodified apples. Chris-

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In Miami, Donna Karan showcases Haitian artisans

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The handbag Donna Karan was showing off Friday lacked her signature logo, or any designer's logo. It was made of paper mache and, the fashion designer said, represented Haiti's handmade carnival masks — in wearable form.

She said the tote bag and other similar fashion and decorative items made by Haitian artisans are part of her "dressing and addressing people" campaign: taking art to where the most people will buy it.

"A painting can say anything, but let's get it out there in the world where people buy T-shirts," Karan said at the opening of a Little Haiti Cultural Center exhibition of art, accessories and furnishings produced by artisans in Haiti and sold through Karan's Urban Zen Foundation. It's no charity craft fair. The items artfully displayed in the Miami gallery would sell in any mainstream home furnishings store. What sets them apart is their origin: hand-made in Haiti from stone, wood, metals and textiles sourced or repurposed in the Caribbean country.

Tobacco leaves are molded into neutrally colored vases. Strings of crystals dangle from wrought-iron chandeliers. Naughty, charming, seahorse-shaped figures cut from tires strut in lines across a wall.

Discarded cartons and wrappers have been coiled into beads for multi-strand, statement necklaces. Fully functional tote bags are made from recycled

cotton T-shirts or paper mache ("It's so durable, it's scary," Karan said). The exhibition also includes oversized metal work by contemporary Haitian artist Philippe Dodard. He also is the director of Haiti's national arts school and is working with Karan to train Haitian artisans with techniques that will help them bring their traditional skills to a global marketplace.

"What we have to do is give them the tools to produce a product that is equal to their competition. That doesn't mean factory. That means artisanal," Karan said.

Karan started her Urban Zen Foundation after the death of her husband in 2001. A Haitian employee at the foundation urged her to turn her focus to the Caribbean country after Haiti was devastated by an earthquake three years ago. Karan is among the designers, celebrities and retailers who have advocated for Haitian artisans amid ongoing, sputtering reconstruction efforts. Many of the artisans lost tools, studios, homes and loved ones in the earthquake. "She understands what we as a people, what we as a government, want to do with our art: show the world the riches of Haiti and commercialize it," said Haiti's consul general in Miami, Francois Guillaume. "But, we don't want to lose our identity. We don't want to lose whatever it is that makes Donna Karan like Haiti that much."

The "Discover Haiti Exhibition" will run at the Little Haiti Cultural Center for two months. □



Fashion designer Donna Karan smiles as she talks to guests and visitors at the Little Haiti Cultural Center in Miami, Friday, May 17, 2013. Karan is among the designers and celebrities who have advocated for Haitian artisans since a catastrophic earthquake shook the Caribbean country in 2010. Associated Press

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This Oct. 28, 2011 file photo shows, from left, Carson Daly, Cee Lo Green, Adam Levine, Blake Shelton, and Christina Aguilera, from the reality television competition "The Voice", in Culver City, Calif.

Associated Press

'The Voice' brings back Aguilera, Cee Lo Green

NEW YORK (AP) — "The Voice" is leaving the judging drama to its rivals. The NBC singing contest said Friday that Christina Aguilera and Cee Lo Green will return for "The Voice" Season 5, joining Adam Levine and Blake Shelton. Their midseason replacements — Shakira and Usher — will be back for Season 6, which will air in midsea-

son 2014. Meanwhile Fox is scrambling to revive "American Idol" after record low ratings for Thursday's finale, with 14.3 million viewers. Original judge Randy Jackson has already announced his exit and Fox is making yet-to-be detailed format changes. Last week "The Voice" narrowly edged out "Idol" in weekly ratings. □

George Michael injured in another car crash



In this Sept. 9, 2012 file photo, British singer George Michael performs at a concert to raise money for AIDS charity Sidaction, during the Symphonica tour at Palais Garnier Opera house in Paris, France.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — George Michael was being treated at a hospital Friday for what his publicist called minor injuries after being a passenger in a car crash near London. A statement released Friday said the singer was in an accident on Thursday night and suffered "superficial cuts and bruises." The statement from publicist Connie Filippello said no other vehicle was involved in the crash. She

declined to provide details about where Michael is hospitalized or when he will be released. Sky News reported that the crash happened Thursday evening on the crowded M1 motorway just northwest of London. It said a different man in the crash had to be taken by air ambulance to a hospital for a head injury. The popular singer has had numerous car-related problems in recent years. □



In this Friday, Nov. 4, 2011 file photo, Andrew Mason, founder and CEO of Groupon, attends his company's IPO at Nasdaq, in New York.

Associated Press

Ex-Groupon CEO working 9 to 5 on business album

MARLEY SEAMAN
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Groupon CEO Andrew Mason is diving into several new ventures, including indulging his inner rock star with an album of "motivational business music." Mason said Thursday on his blog that he recently spent a week in Los Angeles and recorded a collection of seven songs called "Hardly Workin'." Mason said he wants to present business wisdom to younger people and that the songs will help them understand ideas that are

critical to becoming productive and effective employees. He said many of Groupon's employees are young and many didn't have much familiarity with business, and didn't want to read books on the subject. Mason plans to start a new company in the fall. He didn't disclose details but said he'll be moving to San Francisco from Chicago. He also said he is taking an advisory position at Y Combinator, a selective incubator program that supports development of entrepreneurial companies. Mason

said he will spend one day every week at the firm's offices and will advise new startups. Mason did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Technology media website TechCrunch said it had confirmed with Mason that he was serious about the album. Mason founded Groupon, an online deals site. He was fired as CEO in February. The move had been anticipated for months, given concerns about the company's financial and stock performance. □

Obama to host concert honoring Carole King

DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is putting on a show at the White House next week for singer-songwriter Carole King. She is the first woman to receive the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song from the Library of Congress. The White House says Obama will present the award to King during a concert Wednesday. The program will include per-

formances by King, Gloria Estefan, Billy Joel, Jesse McCartney, Emeli Sandé, James Taylor and Trisha Yearwood. King's hits during five decades of songwriting include "You've Got a Friend," "So Far Away" and "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman." Wednesday's concert will be the latest in the "In Performance at the White House" series. It will be streamed live on www.whitehouse.gov. □



In this Nov. 30, 2011 file photo, singer-musician Carole King is seen in New York.

Associated Press

On The Plus Side ...



GAIL COLLINS

© 2013 New York Times

Let's try to come up with some positive thoughts about the recent political fortunes of the Obama White House:

— Economy's getting a little better. Deficit's dropping.

— Bill Clinton had a really terrible second term and look how well things turned out for him.

— Nobody in the administration has been caught driving to Canada with Bo the dog strapped to the car roof.

It's been quite a week, what with the IRS scandal, the Benghazi controversy and revelations about the Justice Department's sweep of The Associated Press' phone records. Plus, the Russians came up with an alleged American spy in a bad wig who they said was caught carrying a compass, an atlas of Moscow and a ridiculous traitor-recruitment letter. That one could be a setup, but if it's real, then we are just going to have to cancel the summer.

Republicans were leaping joyfully through the capital like overcaffeinated gazelles. There is not a committee chairman in the House of Representatives who isn't planning hearings of outrage about something — except maybe the poor woman John Boehner appointed to run the committee in charge of house-keeping.

Heads must roll! Sen. James Inhofe announced that "people may be starting to use the i-word before too long," having apparently missed all the prior calls for the president's impeachment for everything from failure to balance the budget to gun control. Sen. Marco Rubio demanded "the IRS commissioner's resignation," possibly unaware that the nation had not had an IRS commissioner since last November. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid expressed doubt that the nation would be satisfied just with the head of "some temporary guy" and called for a permanent appointment. This was presumably due to Reid's desire for stability, not just a more rewarding target.

The acting commissioner did, indeed, get the ax Wednesday, but the chances that the Senate is going to approve a new Internal Revenue Service commissioner are approximately as good as the odds it will include zombies under Social Security. Reid is still struggling with the nominations for the Consumer

Financial Protection Bureau and the Environmental Protection Agency, which have been held up by the Republicans on the grounds that they don't really like the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Environmental Protection Agency. The Labor Department appears likely to get a new leader the very second hell freezes over. Also, Republican Sen. Roy Blunt of Missouri has vowed to put a hold on EPA nominee Gina McCarthy until he gets a new floodway project. Serious problem for Washington: How do you get heads to roll when there aren't any heads? Except for Attorney General Eric Holder, who's been running the Justice Department for what seems like 100 years and appears linked to just about every disaster in the history of the Obama administration. I believe we may soon discover that he was the one who provided the would-be spy in Russia with a brown wig that looks like an obese cat.

People, this too shall pass. We're in a moment, not a map for the entire Obama second term. It is, of course, possible that things will get worse and we'll discover the president's health care plan is, as Michele Bachmann claims, part of a plot to deny medical treatment to conservatives. Or things could get better. The White House seems to be getting some traction on the IRS. Maybe the economy will really improve, the scandals will run their course, and people will turn their attention to worthy causes like early childhood education or stopping climate change.

Admittedly, the last scenario is a long shot. And even if Barack Obama ascended into heaven, the Republicans would point out that before he went, the IRS picked on the tea party. Maybe, while he's crisis-managing, the president could also figure out a way to show people government working at something other than reorganizing troubled agencies. Maybe he could start off with passing a bill that's supereasy. I notice that in state legislatures, when times are tough, parties are sometimes able to get together in order to pick a new state thing. You know, state bird, state animal. Some states find this so relaxing they never stop. (New Mexico has an official state guitar, state tie and state aircraft, which, unfortunately, is the hot-air balloon.)

The United States has a few of these items, like a bird and an anthem, but there's plenty of territory to cover. The president could demand that Congress pick an official national rock. Committees could hold hearings about the relative merits of slate and granite. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell would threaten to filibuster unless his colleagues considered coal. But, in the end, I believe everybody would rally around a grand compromise for marble. And the country would feel much, much better.

Baby steps. Then we can get to the debt ceiling. □



When Governments Go Bad



DAVID BROOKS

© 2013 New York Times

Government, Clinton Rossiter once wrote, is something like fire: "Under control, it is the most useful of servants; out of control, it is a ravaging tyrant."

So you want government workers to be acutely aware of the ambiguous and perilous nature of their position. You want them to have a heart full of affection for the people they serve. They should regard the people as a mentor, respecting their wisdom, grateful for their trust and longing to serve them with deference and respect.

As they love and respect the voters, you also want government workers to fear themselves. You want officials who are aware that they probably went into government in part because they have a desire to shape and help other people, and that this desire comes with its own form of immoderation.

You want government workers who are alert to their own tendency toward bossiness; who ladle out their power carefully, gram by gram; who are aware that they are not really as benevolent and disinterested as they seem to themselves. Most of all, you want people with a strong sense of self-restraint.

As a surgeon abhors sloppiness, the best government workers instinctively abhor any hint of domination. Knowing how pow-

er is liable to corrupt them, they tend to shrink back at any hint of their own overreach and desire for control. But we don't exactly see this attitude in the big stories about government today, do we? Most government workers are amazingly dedicated and talented, and they put in a level of commitment that is far out of proportion to their salaries. But we're also seeing government workers, who, far from checking their own desire for control, have taken it out for a romp. The IRS scandal and Justice Department's invasion of The Associated Press are just the most recent examples of overreach. They rest on top of the daily intrusions of the post-9/11 security apparatus and much else.

It's hard to tell now if the IRS scandal is political thuggery or obliviousness. It would be one thing if the scandal is just a group of tax people targeting the most anti-tax groups in the country. That's just normal, run-of-the-mill partisan antipathy.

It would be far worse if the senior workers of the IRS have become so isolated by their technocratic task that they didn't even recognize that using the search term "Tea Party" was going to be a moral and political problem. If that's the case, then the members of the IRS leadership are suffering from a tunnel vision that turns outside reality into abstractions. When government workers lose touch with the normal human context of their job, that's when the real horror show commences.

Everyone is treating the IRS issue as a bigger deal, but the Justice Department scandal is worse. This was a sweeping intrusion that makes it hard for the press to do its job. Who is going to call a journalist to report wrongdoing knowing that at some future date, the government might feel perfectly free to track the phone records and hunt you down? would have thought a dozen Justice Department of-

ficials would have risen up and splashily resigned when they learned of the scope of this invasion. Aren't there some lawyers in the Justice Department, and, if so, did they go to law schools where the Constitution is left unassigned? This scandal arises from a larger cultural virus: leakaphobia. Every administration centralizes power more tightly than the one before and is more paranoid about leaks than the one before. Every administration successively narrows the circle of debate, forsaking wide deliberation for the sake of reducing leaks (except the politically useful ones). Why do they do this? Because people who go into government not only have a tendency to want to control other people but also to control information.

We clearly have a values problem in the federal government. We clearly have a few or many agencies where the leaders don't emphasize that workers need to check themselves, or risk losing what remains of the people's trust. The rest of us just have to be more wary. For example, I generally support the little behavioral nudges that Cass Sunstein describes in his outstanding book "Simpler" — the subtle policy shifts that induce people to save more, or eat healthier. I'd trust somebody with a minimalist disposition like Sunstein to implement these policies. But I wouldn't necessarily trust the people at the IRS or Justice Department to implement them. They'd take a nudge and expand it into a shove. And what are we to make of financial regulatory reform and the new health care law? In a culture of unrestraint, will federal regulators use these rule-writing opportunities to expand their reach beyond anything now imagined?

People can only have faith in a government that self-restrains, and there's little evidence of that now. □

As studios lean on blockbusters, the flop looms

JAMES B. STEWART

© 2013 New York Times

For the big Hollywood film studios, this summer could turn out to be "Apocalypse the Day after Tomorrow: Clash of the Blockbusters." Or maybe "Armageddon 2 – Revenge of the Critics." With a record number of big-budget action- and special effect-laden block-

for this summer, when the studios seem to be headed over a blockbuster cliff. The numbers are pretty stark. According to Doug Creutz, the senior media and entertainment analyst for Cowen & Co.: "Of the expensive action and animated movies, we've never had a summer where more than nine did

some of these films."

The dominance of the blockbuster may have many directors, writers and producers wringing their hands, but it has been warmly welcomed by moviegoing audiences and Wall Street. Of the 15 movies that have grossed more than \$1 billion, all were big-budget and all

in front of me and he pulls out his iPad to start watching stuff." Soderbergh went on: "I'm curious to see what he's going to watch – he's a white guy in his mid-30s. And I begin to realize what he's done is he's loaded in half a dozen action sort of extravaganzas and he's watching each of the action sequences.

Potter" films are some of the most successful in the genre), but Disney under the current chief executive, Robert Iger, is seen today as its most zealous and successful practitioner. With its acquisitions of Pixar, Marvel and, last year, Lucasfilm, Disney has spent billions to acquire others' intellectual property, and what Disney hopes will be the foundation of generations of future blockbusters. Whether this bold bet ultimately pays off remains to be seen, but Marvel under Disney has gotten off to a strong start. "Disney is basically 100 percent blockbusters," Creutz said, not counting films it distributes for others, like DreamWorks Studios. "There are a few exceptions, but when they've invested in the big event movies, they've come out pretty well." Last year, Disney's operating income from studio entertainment (which also includes its Broadway productions) rose 17 percent, to \$722 million from \$618 million, largely on the strength of "The Avengers." Disney shares have doubled in the last year and a half (although studio earnings make up a relatively small percentage of total income). For Disney, 2015 will be a crucial test of the strategy. That year the studio is planning another "Star Wars" film, a sequel to "Avengers," a "Pirates of the Caribbean 5" and a sequel to Pixar's "Finding Nemo." Not everyone in Hollywood is despairing these days. "A blockbuster is just another name for a movie a lot of people want to see," Nina Jacobson, who helped start the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise while head of Disney's studio, and has since produced the wildly successful "The Hunger Games," told me this week. "A movie like 'Life of Pi' is big, visual and international but not remotely cynical or safe. 'Silver Linings Playbook,' 'Django Unchained,' 'Argo' and 'Ted' are not typical blockbusters but were still very profitable. □



Johnny Depp in "The Lone Ranger" set to release in summer 2013. Hollywood, increasingly reliant on big-budget spectacles that make hundreds of millions of dollars, may be headed over a blockbuster cliff.

(Walt Disney Pictures via The New York Times)

busters opening between the beginning of this month and the end of August, competition for the spectacle-craving young male and surging international audience has never been more intense.

Steven Soderbergh, the much-admired filmmaker, delivered a blistering critique of the phenomenon at the San Francisco International Film Festival a few weeks ago, bemoaning studio executives' lack of imagination and their fixation on big-budget franchise films. "Cinema as I define it, and as something that inspired me, is under assault by the studios," he said. He likened the big studios to "Detroit before the bailout" and worried that the hegemony of the blockbuster is "a trajectory that I think is pretty difficult to reverse." But his warning may have come too late

well, and often it's fewer. This summer you've got 17 blockbusters coming out between May and July, 19 if you add August," which he said is the most crowded release slate in recent memory. "Is this going to be by far the biggest summer box office in history? Maybe, if they're all great movies, but it's not likely." Studios have been shifting their resources toward what are variously called blockbuster, event, or tent pole movies for years – the big-budget movies intended to help studios make up for their less profitable films. By and large, the strategy seems to have paid off. "We haven't seen many tent poles blow up," Michael Nathanson, a media analyst and managing director at Nomura. "But this summer could be the breaking point. There may be some big write-offs on

but three ("Avatar," "Titanic" and "Alice in Wonderland") were franchise films. And only "Avatar" could be considered original material. Disney's "Iron Man 3," the quintessential franchise blockbuster, opened two weeks ago and on Thursday joined the billion-dollar ranks.

(Curiously, once the figures are adjusted for inflation, none of the Top 10 grossing films of all time were part of a franchise, though all were big-budget event films at the time. The top grossing movie, adjusted for inflation, is "Gone with the Wind.")

Despite often scathing reviews from critics, Soderbergh readily conceded that blockbuster films seem to have "the full support of the audience." While waiting at Kennedy Airport, he said, he saw "a guy on the other side of the aisle

He's skipping over all the dialogue and the narrative. This guy's flight is going to be five and a half hours of just mayhem porn."

The blockbuster phenomenon is also pleasing Wall Street and investors because it means that the big studios are making fewer movies, yet commanding a larger share of total box-office revenue. "It's been a smart strategy," Nathanson said. "They're making fewer films and controlling costs and they've stabilized the industry. This is appealing to Wall Street. It's a coherent strategy that can be articulated to investors. The studios may not be growing much, but they're not the declining problem children they were after the DVD bubble popped." Time Warner's Warner Bros. studio is widely credited with inventing the approach (and its "Harry